Wikipedia's War On India

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Contents of this research paper will not find its way into Wikipedia articles.

A dossier on Wikipedia

How Wikipedia has become a tool to push propaganda of certain ideologies, and how India and her citizens, especially Hindus, have been on the receiving end.

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Executive Summary

This dossier has been prepared with the purpose of demonstrating and establishing conclusively how Wikipedia is not a free, editorial intervention free encyclopaedia which relies on the voluntary work of thousands of unpaid, passionate volunteers across the globe, as claimed by the Wikimedia Foundation.

This dossier is made with a special focus on India, Indian laws and India related content for the purpose of formulating recommendations about treating Wikipedia as a publisher, which is directly liable for the content published on its platform.

The dossier delves briefly into various aspects of Wikipedia and its parent company – the Wikimedia Foundation in order to understand the various claims made by the Wikimedia Foundation about Wikipedia being a free-for-all-to-edit encyclopaedia, using reliable sources, maintaining a neutral point of view, surviving on donations etc.

It also delves into the grants that Wikimedia Foundation gets, the entities it gets the grants from and the entities and NGOs it gives grants to. Further, it aims to understand how Wikimedia Foundation, without maintaining its presence in India, is functioning in India and funding various entities for its business goals.

The dossier first delves into the existing research on the pronounced Left bias of Wikipedia and the elements that contribute to that bias. In all 4 research papers quoted, the unambiguous conclusion is that Wikipedia has an inherent Left bias. Wikipedia's "NPOV" (Neutral Point of View) guidelines does not mean that the entire spectrum of views would find equal, or even fair, representation in a Wiki article. The result of NPOV is merely that whatever details are mentioned in the "reliable source" would be mentioned. The pool of "Reliable source" itself is tainted since the editors and administrators, who have disproportionate power in Wikipedia, ensure that "right wing" (non-Left) sources are deprecated or blacklist – which bars those sources from being cited as reference material in any of the Wikipedia articles.

Larry Sanger, the co-founder of Wikipedia has categorically stated as well that Wikipedia has a pronounced Left bias. In several interviews and talks, he has spoken extensively about how Wikipedia skews the scale of balance, leading to the information being an inaccurate representation of reality, ridden with Left bias.

This dossier cum research paper finds that the structure of Wikipedia itself gives unmitigated power to a handful of individuals who are called 'administrators'. There are only 435 active administrators in the entire world who have power to ban editors, blacklist sources, ban contributors and decide the edits that should be made or reverted on articles. These few administrators hold unbridled power in Wikipedia as far as the content is concerned.

This research also finds that many of these editors and administrators are paid by Wikimedia Foundation in forms of grants for Wikimedia related projects and therefore, it is conclusively proven that Wikipedia is not the free-for-all-to-edit model run by unpaid volunteers that it

claims it is. Jimmy Wales himself admitted as well that he is the final arbitrator of content on Wikipedia.

The research then delves into where Wikimedia Foundation gets its money from and where it spends that money. This analysis is done with a specific focus on India. It is found that Wikimedia Foundation gets millions of dollars from highly motivated donor-directed-funds including from Foundations like Open Society Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Tides Foundation and others. Google too donates millions to Wikimedia Foundation and promotes Wikipedia content, including funding projects like Abstract Wikipedia which essentially aims to colonise the internet.

Wikimedia Foundation has intimate financial connections with the clandestine Tides Foundation, which is accused of funding the pro-Hamas protests in US Universities along with George Soros.

Wikimedia and Tides Foundation also funds several organisations which specifically work against the interest of India and undermine its sovereignty on various levels.

Connections of Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation have been found with dubious organisations like Hindus For Human Rights, Equality Labs, Art+Feminism, Access Now, the Hindenburg hitjobs against Indian industrialists and others.

In India, Wikimedia Foundation has no presence. The presence they had in the form of a registered society was closed in 2019. Despite folding in India, Wikimedia Foundation not only collects lakhs from India in the form of donations but also funds NGOs in India which further the business interest of Wikimedia Foundation. All of these organisations funded by Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation are Left-leaning organisations.

As far as the content on Wikipedia is concerned, it is found in this research that a small group of editors and administrators skew the content in India, including one editor who has been booked in the state of Manipur for spreading disaffection and creating strife. The editors often stonewall attempts to add inconvenient facts and a different perspective to the Wikipedia articles. Further, there is a specific anti-Hindu and anti-India bias which is perpetrated by the editors, reflecting in the content which defines the subjects due to the partnership between Google and Wikimedia Foundation.

This dossier documents and establishes the aforementioned pieces of information with original citations. It concludes with a list of recommendations that the researcher of this dossier proposes to bring accountability to Wikimedia Foundation, which perpetrates an editorial line without submitting to Indian laws. While Wikimedia Foundation claims that Wikipedia is merely an intermediary, it is found that Wikipedia meets all the standards set for 'publishers' under the IT Guidelines. This would mean that Wikimedia Foundation should be held liable for all the content on Wikipedia and should be required to have presence in India to submit to Indian laws, including laws governing FCRA, NGOs, IT Guidelines, Financial disclosure standards and more.

Methodology

This research relies almost exclusively on open source information provided by Wikimedia Foundation and Wikipedia itself. Wikipedia archives all of the discussion between its editors, all the edits made to various articles on Wikipedia and also, all the discussions that led to those edits including the details of the users who made those edits. All the information in this dossier that cites a Wikipedia article as its source of information, is as that article appeared on 9th September 2024, 10.40 AM.

The dossier also relies on financial information revealed by Wikimedia Foundation on its various official pages along with its Form 990 submitted to the IRS.

The researcher came across damning accusations from individuals who claimed wrongdoing on part of Wikipedia editors such as demanding money to make certain edits – an illegitimate and illegal demand that could be seen as ranging from bribery to blackmailing. However, this dossier has not included such accusations – which go beyond accusations of financial impropriety – and has strictly restricted itself to facts that are well demonstrated and documented by Wikipedia and other relevant organisations.

The dossier relies on other sources of information, such as media reports, to the extent of supplementing the arguments made by the researcher based on the information provided by the Wikimedia Foundation and/or Wikipedia.

The objective of the Dossier *– why analysing Wikipedia bias is important*

"*Wikipedia is a free content online encyclopaedia written and maintained by a community of volunteers, known as Wikipedians, through open collaboration and the wiki software MediaWiki. Wikipedia is the largest and most-read reference work in history,*" – that is how Wikipedia defines itself as on 10.40 AM on 9th September 2024.

The same article further says that is consistently ranked among the ten most visited websites; as of July 2024, it was ranked fifth by Semrush, and seventh by Similarweb. Founded by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger on January 15, 2001, Wikipedia has been hosted since 2003 by the Wikimedia Foundation, an American nonprofit organization funded mainly by donations from readers.

Wikipedia is available in over 300 languages and the English Wikipedia has over 6.9 million articles. In all languages combined, Wikipedia has over 63 million articles and attract more than 1.5 billion unique device visits and 13 million edits per month (about 5 edits per second on average) as of April 2024[1].[2]

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[1] https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-projects/reading/page-views-by-country/normal|map|last-month|(access)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly

[2] https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Wikipedia&oldid=1243483768

Jun 2024, Wikipedia got a total 23 Billion pageviews worldwide[3]. In June 2024, India ranked 5th with 796 million page views over all Wikis[4]. India ranks 3rd in the number of Wikipedia Editors active from any country, making edits on Wikipedia English. While USA has 18,000 active editors, United Kingdom has 6,000 editors, India comes third with 4,000 active editors on Wikipedia English[5].

With these statistics, it is evident that Indians are among the most active on Wikipedia overall and especially Wikipedia English.

While India is among the top most active countries on Wikipedia, data shows how user interest in India is also among the highest from across the world[6].

In June 2024, the 6th most viewed page on Wikipedia was the 2024 General Election page with 4,337,658 views. The 2019 General Election page in June 2024 got 2,214,580 page views. The page of NDA (National Democratic Alliance) got 1,989,205 page views, the page on Lok Sabha got 1,353,515 pageviews, Narendra Modi page got 1,094,315 pageviews and India got 896,516 page views. This traffic is among the top traffic that Wikipedia English received worldwide[7].

According to Wikimedia Foundation, in 2023, the Wikipedia English page on 'India' was the 21st most read Wikipedia page worldwide with 15,200,006 page views[8].

Let us consider the 'India' Wikipedia English article. The total edits on the 'India' article on Wikipedia English is 27,966 and 7,389 editors worldwide have made edits to it with an average of 4.3 per day. The 2024 General Election page on Wikipedia English has a total of 6,722 edits, with an average of 3.1 edits per day and 881 editors who have made edits on the page so far.

These statistics therefore established that India is one of the leading countries of Interest as far as Wikipedia is concerned when it comes to creation of content as well as a subject explored on Wikipedia by users worldwide.

A recent study found that Wikipedia external links generate $7-13 million worth of monthly traffic to other websites. In a different study, MOZ reported that 73% of Google's first page results and 82% of top 3 results were organizations with standalone Wikipedia pages[9].

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[3] https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-projects/reading/total-page-views/normal|table|2-year|~total|monthly
[4] https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-projects/reading/page-views-by-country/normal|table|2024-06-29~2024-06-30|(access)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly
[5] https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/en.wikipedia.org/contributing/active-editors-by-country/normal|table|last-month|(activity-level)~5..99-edits|monthly
[6] https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/all-projects
[7] https://stats.wikimedia.org/#/en.wikipedia.org/reading/top-viewed-articles/normal|table|last-month|(access)~desktop*mobile-app*mobile-web|monthly
[8] https://wikimediafoundation.org/news/2023/12/05/announcing-wikipedias-most-popular-articles-of-2023/
[9] https://themathergroupllc.com/how-google-uses-wikipedia-to-improve-search-results/

Wikipedia has a domain authority of 98, which means that Wikipedia is going to feature high up the search index on Google for almost any subject and that Google itself considers the articles an authority on any subject.

In February 2010, Google gave US$2,000,000 as its first grant to the Wikimedia Foundation. Google founder Sergey Brin commented that "Wikipedia is one of the greatest triumphs of the internet".

In May 2012, Google launched a project known as the Google Knowledge Graph, which produced knowledge panels alongside traditional search engine results. Later, results from querying the knowledge graph complemented string-based search in producing the ranked list of search results as well. A large amount of the information presented in the knowledge panel info boxes is retrieved from Wikipedia and the CIA World Factbook.

In January 2019, Google donated $3 million to the Wikimedia Foundation.[10]

In June 2022, Google and the Internet Archive were announced as Wikimedia Foundation's first customers, though only Google will be paying for the service.

Interestingly, Google also relied heavily on Wikipedia for 'battling misinformation'. In March 2018, YouTube announced that they would be using information from Wikipedia to address the problem of misinformation on the website. There are several topics where an information panel is displayed below the video. That information draws heavily from Wikipedia considering it an authoritative source of information.

Given these statistics and the reliance of Google on Wikipedia not just as an authoritative source for information but also for supposedly combatting misinformation, it becomes essential to evaluate the bias in Wikipedia articles especially with respect to India and subjects that effect the national security and integrity of India. Wikipedia matters and gets wide traffic from across the world. While most serious researchers reject Wikipedia as an authoritative source of information, it is widely accepted that Wikipedia has increasingly become the information gateway through which the world and important subjects are understood by people. It is therefore imperative that the bias of the platform is understood threadbare and the ramifications of such biased information on the national security and integrity of India is analysed.

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[10] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Relationship_between_Google_and_Wikipedia

Prior Research on the Ideological Bias of Wikipedia

Given the importance of Wikipedia in how the world understands issues today, it is imperative to delve into the existing research on the reliability of Wikipedia and the inherent bias that ails the online Encyclopaedia.

Research by Manhattan Institute

Manhattan Institute is a reputed and widely acknowledged policy think tank established in 1978. It focusses on a large variety of subjects like healthcare, policy, higher education etc. On its website, The Manhattan Institute says "it is a community of scholars, journalists, activists, and civic leaders committed to advancing economic opportunity, individual liberty, and the rule of law in America and its great cities".

In June 2024, David Rozado published a research paper exploring the bias of Wikipedia titled, "Is Wikipedia Politically Biased?". The research focussed on exploring if there is a political bias in the Wikipedia English articles. The research came to the conclusion that there exists a left-leaning bias in the English-language Wikipedia articles[11].

Following are the conclusions that the research drew:

1. Mild to moderate tendency in Wikipedia articles to associate public figures ideologically aligned right-of-centre with more negative sentiment than public figures ideologically aligned left-of-centre.
2. Prevailing associations of negative emotions (e.g., anger and disgust) with right-leaning public figures; and positive emotions (e.g., joy) with left-leaning public figures.
3. Some of the aforementioned political associations embedded in Wikipedia articles popping up in OpenAI's language models. This is suggestive of the potential for biases in Wikipedia content percolating into widely used AI systems.
4. Wikipedia's neutral point of view (NPOV) policy aims for articles in Wikipedia to be written in an impartial and unbiased tone. Our results suggest that Wikipedia's NPOV policy is not achieving its stated goal of political-viewpoint neutrality in Wikipedia articles.

This research aimed to analyse the content of Wikipedia with computational content analysis using modern LLMs for content annotation—to assess quantitatively whether there is political bias in Wikipedia's content. Specifically, we computationally assess the sentiment and emotional tone associated with politically charged terms— those referring to politically aligned public figures and institutions—within Wikipedia articles.

Interestingly, this research not only found a pronounced Left-leaning bias on Wikipedia when it spoke about political ideologies and political figures, including Prime Ministers, Ministers and public persons, it also has a distinct bias when it comes to media sources that it allows

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[11] https://manhattan.institute/article/is-wikipedia-politically-biased?utm_source=press_release&utm_medium=email

to be cited on its platform. In this research, only American news sources were analysed. The research concludes that "The asymmetry in sentiment associations on Wikipedia entries between right and left public figures can also be seen for influential news media organizations. Figure 6 shows that Wikipedia articles tend to refer to left-leaning news media institutions with more positive sentiment than right-leaning news media organizations. However, there is no difference in sentiment in Wikipedia's descriptions of right-leaning vs. left-leaning U.S.-based think tanks. This may be because think tanks do not elicit polarizing emotional responses as strongly as do media organizations or politically".

Figure 6

Average Sentiment with Which Names of Institutions Are Used in Wikipedia Articles

Media Institutions
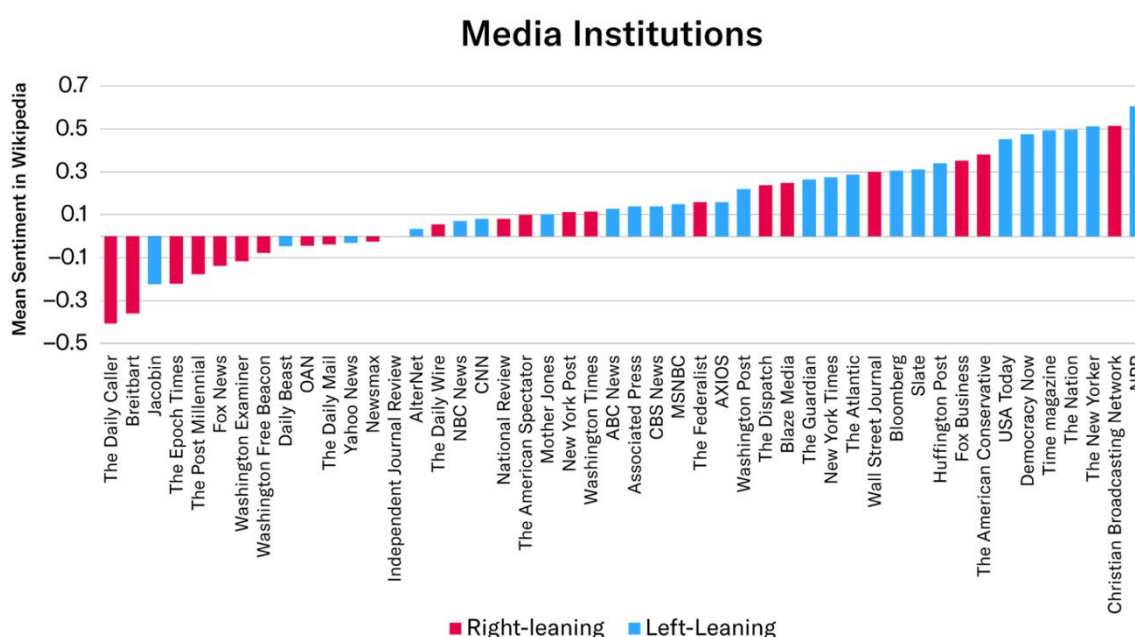
The research by Manhattan Institute therefore clearly points out that there is a pronounced political bias with no room for different point of views, since sources that present an alternate point of view also get blacklisted by Wikipedia.

The Critic Research

In 2020, The Critic published a paper about Wikipedia's bias. The Critic is a monthly British political and cultural magazine founded in 2019 as a "critic of the critic" as an op-ed described it[12]. Written by two American academicians, the paper was titled, "The left-wing bias of Wikipedia"[13].

The research paper focussed on two important internal policies of Wikipedia – Verifiability and Neutral Point of View. Wikipedia has several internal policies which aim to ensure that

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[12] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Critic_(modern_magazine)
[13] https://thecritic.co.uk/the-left-wing-bias-of-wikipedia/

the edits made to a page and the information added to a page are accurate and not biased, however, the research paper shows that the internal policies are failing to meet their stated objective because of the pronounced Left bias of Wikipedia and its editors.

"One policy, named "Verifiability," requires that all content on Wikipedia be based on "reliable, independent, published sources with a reputation for fact-checking and accuracy." Another policy, "Neutral Point of View" (NPOV), requires that Wikipedia articles include all viewpoints in proportion to their prominence in the source material. This does not necessarily mean giving equal validity to all views: for example, most reliable sources that discuss creationism describe it as an unscientific viewpoint, so NPOV policy requires that Wikipedia present it the same way", the research paper says.

The research paper says that the consequence of these internal policies of Wikipedia is that articles leaning towards one side are considered reliable while those presenting an opposing view are considered unreliable. The sources which are considered reliable and those considered not reliable are decided by the 'editors' of Wikipedia – these are people who edit and write articles on Wikipedia. These discussions about 'sources' which can or cannot be cited in Wikipedia articles are held at "reliable sources noticeboard"[14].

The researchers then looked into the sources that had been "deprecated," which means a source that has been formally prohibited from being used in all but a handful of cases. When the research was conducted, it found that there were 16 conservative sources which were considered 'deprecated' and only one Leftist website in the list.

It is worthy to be kept in mind here that the research perhaps focussed mostly on news sources from the West which were deprecated. This paper would analyse the current list of deprecated sources at a later stage.

The research also found that Left-wing sources were used to discuss and reach the conclusion that "Right Wing" or conservative sources should be banned from being cited on the basis of them being deemed 'biased' by the Left-wing sources. The research then also pointed out that any attempt to deprecate a Left Wing source would not find support by the editors and was stonewalled successfully.

Talking about the discussion to deprecate a Left Wing source, the researchers say, "*A proposal to deprecate AlterNet was made in April 2019, but the proposal received very little support. One user argued that AlterNet should be deprecated due to the site's distribution of false medical information—that anthrax can be treated using homeopathy, for instance— meant that following its instructions can cause bodily harm. On the other hand, one of the users opposed to deprecation argued that AlterNet is "valuable for providing progressive viewpoints and reporting or interviews of progressive organizations." The majority of the Wikipedia articles citing AlterNet are not medical articles, but in light of Wikipedia's status as the most widely used source of medical information for doctors and patients, allowing citations to AlterNet poses a risk that does not exist for most of the deprecated right-leaning tabloid newspapers and political websites.*"

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[14] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reliable_sources/Noticeboard

The research paper also addresses the bias in arbitration enforcement in Wikipedia where it finds that while Wikipedia calls itself the free encyclopaedia which anyone can edit, it is only so as far as non-controversial articles are concerned.

The research says, *"More relevant to content or sourcing decisions is another type of restriction applied to some topics known as discretionary sanctions. These are a special set of powers given to administrators (admins) in some topic areas that allow them to place blocks or sanctions on any person editing the topic whom they believe to be acting disruptively. Discretionary sanctions can only be authorized by the Arbitration Committee (a.k.a. ArbCom), which is English Wikipedia's highest ruling body, and usually are authorized at the conclusion of an arbitration case covering a topic.*

Discretionary sanctions are authorized in most of Wikipedia's controversial topics, and cannot be lifted or modified unless there is a consensus among admins to do so. Because it is quite difficult for them to be lifted or modified, and because it is up to admins' individual judgment what behaviour should be punished under this system, it would be quite easy for any administrator to use this system to suppress one side of a dispute. This could be done by blocking or topic banning most of the editors on one side (a topic ban prohibits a person from contributing to any articles or discussions related to a topic), or by making editors on one side feel unwelcome until they choose to leave. If this were to occur it would affect the balance of participants in discussions about sources or article content, and ultimately affect the outcome of those discussions".

The research picked 4 contentious topics to analyse from the Arbitration Enforcement noticeboard – the topics were those which are likely to have two ends of the political spectrum on either side of the debate – abortion – for example. The research based on aggregate data found that **in politically loaded topics, editors who support right-leaning views are over six times more likely to be sanctioned at Arbitration Enforcement than those who support left-leaning views**.

One argument which is often furthered to explain such bias is that Left leaning views are far more widely represented in the mainstream media and therefore, find more representation, with contrary views being clamped down by the ArbCom for lack of sources. However, the research finds that it is not just the views being represented in the mainstream media but also the attitude of the editors and administrators.

The research points out that "it is a widely expressed view among Wikipedia administrators, as well as by Wikipedia's parent organization, that Wikipedia should show little tolerance for editors perceived as having right-wing points of view" (therefore, if there is a stated view to 'tolerate' right wing points of view, the editors and administrators are not 'neutral').

Citing an example, the research says "In December 2018, when several administrators were applying for positions on English Wikipedia's Arbitration Committee, all of the applicants were asked the following question:

"With the rise of far-right and hate groups online, are you concerned that editors espousing such beliefs may try (or are already attempting) to use Wikipedia as a vehicle for propaganda? Why or why not? If yes, what role do you think ArbCom could play in counteracting their influence on Wikipedia?"

The majority of the candidates, including four of the six candidates who went on to win positions on ArbCom, answered that far-right editors were a particularly severe problem at Wikipedia and that ArbCom must take an active role in stopping them. The research goes on to show how individual editors are also politically motivated with a Left-wing bias.

Interestingly, the research cites the own views of the Wikimedia Foundation itself which proves that Wikipedia most definitively has a bias.

> *"In June 2020, the organization published a statement endorsing the goals of Black Lives Matter, which reads in part: "On these issues, there is no neutral stance. To stay silent is to endorse the violence of history and power; yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It is well past time for racial justice in America and beyond."*
>
> *The statement "there is no neutral stance" is probably a reference to Wikipedia's "Neutral Point of View" policy, which is still an official Wikipedia policy. This apparent rejection of a core Wikipedia policy by the site's parent organization did not go unnoticed by members of the Wikipedia community, who subsequently debated the statement's implications.*
>
> *The views expressed by various Wikipedians about the WMF's statement reveal an informative contrast. Non-admins commenting on the statement expressed a variety of opinions, but more disapproved of the statement than approved, with a few being highly critical. However, no Wikipedia administrators openly criticized the statement. Of the seven administrators commenting in the discussion about it, two (Nosebagbear and DGG) expressed mild concerns or disagreements, one (Llywrch) commented without expressing an opinion, while the other four (Pharos, Sj, The Blade of the Northern Lights, and Amorymeltzer) all defended the WMF's statement. Ironically, one of the more prominent Wikipedians to directly criticize the WMF's statement was an ex-administrator, who was stripped of her admin powers in January of this year".*

The research goes on to demonstrate definitively how this Left bias affects articles on Wikipedia.

The research says:

1. Members of Wikipedia are far less likely to remove hoax material if it supports a viewpoint they agree with.
2. Wikipedia's policy regarding biographies of living people, also known as BLP policy, requires that all statements about living people be supported by a reliable source, and for unsourced and poorly-sourced material to be immediately removed. But like all Wikipedia policies, this policy can only be applied if there is someone willing to uphold it. The researchers analysed the page of Linda Gottfredson, a psychologist.

During the 21 months that the Gottfredson article contained a fabricated quote, the article was being sporadically edited by several people, who quickly undid attempts at removing negative material from the article. But the people maintaining the article during this time were almost entirely people who had unfavourable opinions of Gottfredson, and their diligence did not extend to making sure all of the negative material was cited to sources that actually existed. The phycologist is regularly disparaged by Left leaning commentators.

3. The principle illustrated by this series of events is that members of Wikipedia are far less likely to notice and remove vandalism or hoax material if it is in support of a viewpoint that they agree with. (This is true of all viewpoints, both left-leaning and right-leaning.) While this particular example was more severe than most, the same principle also applies to more subtle violations of Wikipedia's content policies, such as article text not adequately supported by the sources it cites. When Wikipedia's administrators suppress one side of a dispute in a controversial topic, one of the long-term results is that policy violations favourable to the opposite side may be overlooked for months or years.

Larry Sanger – Co-Founder of Wikipedia

Larry Sanger, the co-founder of Wikipedia and its former avatar, Nupedia, has criticised the ideological bias of Wikipedia comprehensively. He has also stated on numerous occasions that Wikipedia's Left bias has killed its neutrality a long time ago.

In an article written in 2020[15], Larry Sanger criticizes the platform for abandoning its neutrality policy, arguing that it has become biased towards liberal viewpoints. He cites examples such as the differing treatment of Barack Obama and Donald Trump, where scandals involving Obama are omitted while Trump's controversies are extensively covered. Sanger also points out bias in articles on political issues, religion, and science, claiming Wikipedia endorses establishment views without presenting opposing perspectives.

There were two follow up articles where Larry Sanger discussed the bias of Wikipedia towards the Left. One was in 2021[16] and the other was in 2023[17].

In a 2021 article, Larry Sanger details how Wikipedia abandoned its neutrality objective (NPOV) with respect to contentious and politically divided subjects such as the impeachment of Donald Trump, the Hunter Biden story and more – with a stark bias towards the Democrat POV as compared to the Republicans.

Larry Sanger writes, *"Democrats and (most) Republicans were sharply divided on the question of whether Trump's impeachments had any merit. The Democratic view was that Trump abused his office by encouraging the president of Ukraine to investigate his opponent, Biden. Later, he egged on the January 6 invasion of the Capitol building. The Republican view was that Trump's call with the Ukrainian president was wholly innocent, that he had*

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[15] https://larrysanger.org/2020/05/wikipedia-is-badly-biased/

[16] https://larrysanger.org/2021/06/wikipedia-is-more-one-sided-than-ever/

[17] https://larrysanger.org/2023/06/how-wikipedia-smears-conservatives/

committed no "high crime or misdemeanour," and that Biden was in fact guilty of dirty shenanigans in Ukraine. As to the January 6 invasion, his remarks did not cause it. Of course, there is much, much more to be said on all sides. Now, a neutral Wikipedia would not come down clearly on either side, and would fully lay out the Democratic and the Republican cases fairly and fully. Is that what we see on Wikipedia? No…".

After analysing the pages as they appeared at that time, Larry Sanger writes, ***"Wikipedia took the Democrats' side against Trump, period. The articles are so biased, in fact, that it is fair to call them "propaganda."***

In all three articles, Larry Sanger, the co-founder of Wikipedia, claims that "NPOV is dead" in Wikipedia and the Left bias is rampant. He says that a Neutral Point of View would mean that both sides of the issue are presented – the negatives and the positives – the Left and the Right – even if one side is objectively wrong in the issue. However, Wikipedia does not adhere to these standards.

In an interview, Larry Sanger detailed how Wikipedia has no intention to fix its dangerous bias and also, that Jimmy Wales had no intention to fix the dangerous bias[18].

Pirate Wires research by Ashley Rindsberg

Pirate Wires, an US based media company reporting on intersection between technology, politics, and culture, came out with a detailed article analysing how "Wikipedia editors churn news articles from an overwhelmingly left-leaning list of "reliable sources" into neutrality-emblazoned fact."[19]

The research undertaken by Ashley Rindsberg, which is titled "How Wikipedia Launders Regime Propaganda" focuses on how Wikipedia articles are largely based on Left media sources because all conservative media sources have been blacklisted by the editors and administrators.

The first example it cites is of a debate that had erupted after President Biden had dropped out of the Presidential race in July 2024. The Democrats started talking about illegal immigration and how Kamala Harris, who had been appointed as the Border Czar by Biden, had failed in her role. The Democrats denied that Harris had been appointed Czar.

The Wikipedia page listen Border Czars initially had included the name of Kamala Harris, but according to the research, the mention of Harris was quickly removed by the editors after the pollical debate erupted. This resulted in an edit war on the Talk Page. The research points out how sources reporting that she was not appointed as Czar were cited, with any factual counters ignored.

The research observes:

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[18] https://youtu.be/bwcPEACzUfQ?si=e2CKMrZ8rN1fbfSb

[19] https://www.piratewires.com/p/how-wikipedia-launders-regime-propaganda?f=home

"Wikipedia articles present their subject matter with a casually authoritative, almost stolid tone. But beneath the surface lies endless argumentation played out in rounds of procedural maneuvering that would shame the most deft legislative hand. User bans, discretionary sanctions, requests for comment, arbitration cases, topic bans, page bans, deprecated sources — all encoded in a shorthand jargon — lie behind the "consensus" displayed in an article's seemingly ripple-free surface. In a way, this arcana of behind-the-scenes conceptual machinery is Wikipedia's most impressive feature. It's what keeps it from grinding to a halt on infighting and intransigence. The problem is — like with the Harris border czar reference, which is still omitted from the czar article (and will almost certainly stay that way) — the consensus it achieves often lines up with the prerogatives of the Democratic Party and the media establishment that supports it."

The research then goes on to talk about how conservative news sources are banned under the "reliability" guideline while Left sources are solely relied upon.

Rindsberg writes:

"One of the reasons for this cuts to the very heart of how Wikipedia works. The encyclopedia is governed by a raft of policies like Wikipedia:Notability (subjects of articles should meet a threshold of notability), Wikipedia:Recentism (overdue emphasis must not be placed on recent events), and Wikipedia:Neutral Point of View (self-explanatory). None, however, play even close to the outsized role that Wikipedia:Verifiability plays, with its insistence that claims "must be attributable to a reliable published source." The obvious question this standard raises is which sources are considered reliable. While some Wikipedia policies invite ambiguity, on this the site is clear. The Wikipedia:Reliable Sources/Perennial Sources page filters media sources into categories of "Generally reliable," coded in a green-filled cell on the page's table, yellow for those on which there is "No consensus," and red for "Generally unreliable." The breakdown of sites filtered into each respective category is telling. The cadre of news outlets that collectively make up the mainstream media — ABC, CBS and NBC News, Associated Press, Vanity Fair, Vogue, The Atlantic, Axios, BBC, New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, Wired, CNN, AFP — are classified green for reliable. Strongly left-leaning outlets like Vox, Mother Jones, The Guardian, HuffPost and The Intercept are as well. But so are outright leftist or socialist outlets, including Jacobin, The Nation, and The Independent, as is civil rights advocacy NGO Southern Poverty Law Center. Conservative outlets like Fox News (on politics and science), The Federalist, The Post Millennial, and Washington Free Beacon are red for generally unreliable. A lower ring of "deprecated sources," whose use is outright prohibited, includes the Daily Mail, The Daily Caller, The Sun, NewsMax, and The Epoch Times. The Weekly Standard and Wall Street Journal (the latter of whose news pages are known for tilting more leftward than its right-of-center opinion page) are the only American conservative outlets with a green rating. Right-leaning tabloid New York Post is red; left-leaning tabloid New York Daily News is green."

The research also observes that while conservative media is in the red (deprecated source), *"State-owned networks China Daily and Xinhua — whose purpose is to spread Chinese government propaganda to the English speaking world — get a yellow for "no consensus." Al Jazeera, owned by Qatar, an authoritarian state, is blessed with a green reliability rating".*

Essentially, the research by Rindsberg charts how Left-leaning editors are defiant in the face of facts, ensuring that inconvenient sources which are conservative/non-Left are banned, deprecated or blacklisted while those that lean Left are cited rampantly despite questions being raised on their credibility.

How Wikipedia Works: Hierarchy of 'editors' and 'administrators'

To understand how Wikipedia functions, we must get into the organisational structure of Wikimedia Foundation, who owns and funds it, and how Wikipedia is structured.

Wikipedia is one of the projects of Wikimedia, an organization owned and operated by the Wikimedia Foundation. The overall control is by the ten-member Wikimedia Board of Trustees of which Jimmy Wales is Chairman Emeritus and a member[20].

It is important to note that while Wikipedia often claims that its content is not necessarily 'controlled' by anyone, in a 2002 letter, Jimmy Wales had categorically mentioned that "Final policy decisions are up to me, as always".[21]

According to Wikipedia itself, *"The contributors or editors of Wikipedia participate subject to a number of policies and guidelines governing behaviour and content. These rules are supervised by various authorities: Jimmy Wales, nominally in a position of ultimate authority, although he has deferred in most instances to the leadership of Wikipedia, the ~34 present Bureaucrats or Crats, the ~700 active Administrators or Admins, and another group called the Arbitration Committee or ArbCom with 15-18 members or Arbs, depending upon the rules adopted each year. In July 2012 there were 14 active arbitrators identified, all of whom were administrators, although this is not a set rule. The Wikimedia Foundation or its designated agents also have authority to impose bans against IP addresses for pages, topics, or the entire site. The Arbitration Committee "has no jurisdiction over official actions of the Wikimedia Foundation or its staff".*

Editors

Editors are usual contributors to Wikipedia who can submit edits to various pages. They could be registered users or functioning through their IP address. Editors are lowest in the hierarchy of power as far as Wikipedia content is concerned. They can be easily banned or vetoed by others with higher authority/power.

Bureaucrats

Bureaucrats or Crats are a category introduced in 2004, and have only a few limited activities. Among these, they may remove Administrators if so instructed by the Arbitration Committee, and appoint Administrators and Bureaucrats following a selection procedure.

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[20] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Formal_organization
[21] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia_Governance_(2002_essay)

Currently, according to Wikipedia, there are only 15 Bureaucrats and they all appear anonymous[22].

Administrators

There are 855 administrator accounts (active and otherwise), 435 of them active (as of 2024-07-23). Activity is defined as 30 or more edits during the last two months. The 435 active administrators are from across the world. They are mostly all anonymous and their real identity is not known. Wikipedia administrators have power to alter content and decide almost everything about the articles present on Wikipedia. Not just the articles, they have the power to even decide who can or cannot edit the articles on Wikipedia.

Administrators have the right to ban editors/users, curtail their activity, protect pages so editors cannot edit the content, delete pages after discussion, delete users, decide on disputes etc[23].

Arbitration Committee

Members of the Arbitration Committee (referred to as ArbCom), or Arbs, act in concert or in sub-groups to impose binding solutions to conduct disputes the community has been unable to resolve, mainly by defining what constitutes a violation in such disputes and imposing sanctions, such as bans and blocks upon users.

The Arbitration Committee is essentially Wikipedia's Supreme Court. ArbCom was created by Jimmy Wales as an extension of the decision-making power he formerly held as CEO of Bomis Inc., to take over his role in resolving complex disputes between users.

Bomis Inc was a for-profit private company which was co-founded in 1996 by Jimmy Wales for ventures like Nupedia and Wikipedia. It ran Nupedia as one of its projects as profit-making company but the attempt proved to be loss making and the company collapsed at the end of the dot-com bubble, aided by other factors[24]. By 2007, the for-profit company was shut down and all the Wikipedia-related sources were transferred to Wikimedia Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organisation, also founded by Jimmy Wales.

Nupedia was meant to be an online English encyclopaedia where volunteers with subject matter expertise wrote articles, and expert editors reviewed that content before the article being published. Wikipedia was launched by Bomis to provide content to Nupedia.

Nupedia was co-founded by Jimmy Wales and Larry Sanger, undersigned by Bomis Inc. Larry Senger was also the editor-in-chief of Nupedia. Nupedia had a seven-step approval process to control content of articles before being posted.

The content on Nupedia, predecessor of Wikipedia, was less in comparison to Wikipedia. For example, in its first year, Nupedia had only 21 articles while Wikipedia had 200. However,

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[22] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Bureaucrats
[23] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Administrators%27_guide
[24] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bomis

Larry Senger has criticised how Jimmy Wales sacrificed authenticity for volume while shifting from Nupedia to Wikipedia. Larry has often remarked how the volume could have been scaled up without compromising on authenticity and reliability of the information.

Larry Senger has written in detail about how he was declared as the co-founder of Wikipedia as well before his ouster,[25] where subsequently the power to edit went into the hands of largely anonymous individuals.

The members of the ArbCom are extremely limited. It is a small group of individuals who are considered highly "trusted".

Currently, there are only 10 active members of the ArbCom:

The following list is in the public domain as of 16 July 2024[26]:

1. Aoidh
2. Cabayi
3. Guerillero
4. HJ Mitchell
5. Maxim
6. Moneytrees
7. Primefac
8. Sdrqaz
9. ToBeFree
10. Z1720

These ArbCom members are important because they even have access to personal data of users, if the situation demands. Further, they have overarching rights on what truly goes on in the Wikipedia community. These users are mostly anonymous to the public at large and therefore, it is difficult to determine their identity. Only a handful of them voluntarily disclose their real identity in their Wikipedia personal pages.

It is interesting to note here that Wikimedia Foundation spends only a fraction of their revenue in the upkeep and server cost of Wikipedia itself. A large part goes into salaries and paying editors and administrators in the form of grants – including in India. The details of that can be read in the section about payments to editors and administrators and Big-Tech reliance – From Google to YouTube, AI and more in this dossier.

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[25] https://larrysanger.org/roleinwp.html
[26] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Arbitration_Committee

What it means

While Wikipedia claims that it depends on the 'wisdom of the crowds' and it is a free only encyclopaedia which everyone is free to edit, the truth is that there are only a handful of people who have the ultimate say in what content is added and what isn't. It is also a handful of people who have the power to ban edits, ban editors, decide disputes, delete pages, lock pages, override content etc. It is also true that there are editors and administrators who are actively paid by Wikimedia Foundation under the 'editor retention program'. Further, Wikimedia Foundation pays many of them under the garb of giving them grants for projects. This, therefore, means that Wikipedia indeed has a solid hierarchy just as any other publishing house with strict editorial control and editorial lines that the editors and administrators' toe – as would be demonstrated further in this paper. Further, even according to existing research with regards to Wikipedia, including the conclusions drawn by the co-founder of Wikipedia, Larry Sengar, the platform has a distinct ideological bias which decisively affects its accuracy and reliability adversely.

Relationship between Wikipedia and Big Tech – especially Google

The Wikimedia Foundation is an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in San Francisco, California, and registered there as a charitable foundation. Wikipedia is a 'project' of Wikimedia Foundation. Wikimedia Foundation was established in 2003 – 2 years after Wikipedia was started – by Jimmy Wales. As of December 31, 2023, it has employed over 700 staff and contractors, with annual revenues of $180.2 million, annual expenses of $169 million, net assets of $255 million and a growing endowment, which surpassed $100 million in June 2021[27].

This chart from Wikimedia shows how their assets and revenue have grown exponentially over the years – including an interesting Endowment fund.

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[27]
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation#:~:text=The%20Foundation%20finances%20itself%20mainly,Wikipedia%20and%20its%20sister%20projects.

Wikimedia Foundation Support and Revenue, Expenses and Net Assets at Year End

(Net Assets do not include funds in Wikimedia Endowment and Tides Advocacy. Expenses 2015–2021 include $30 million paid to Wikimedia Endowment.)
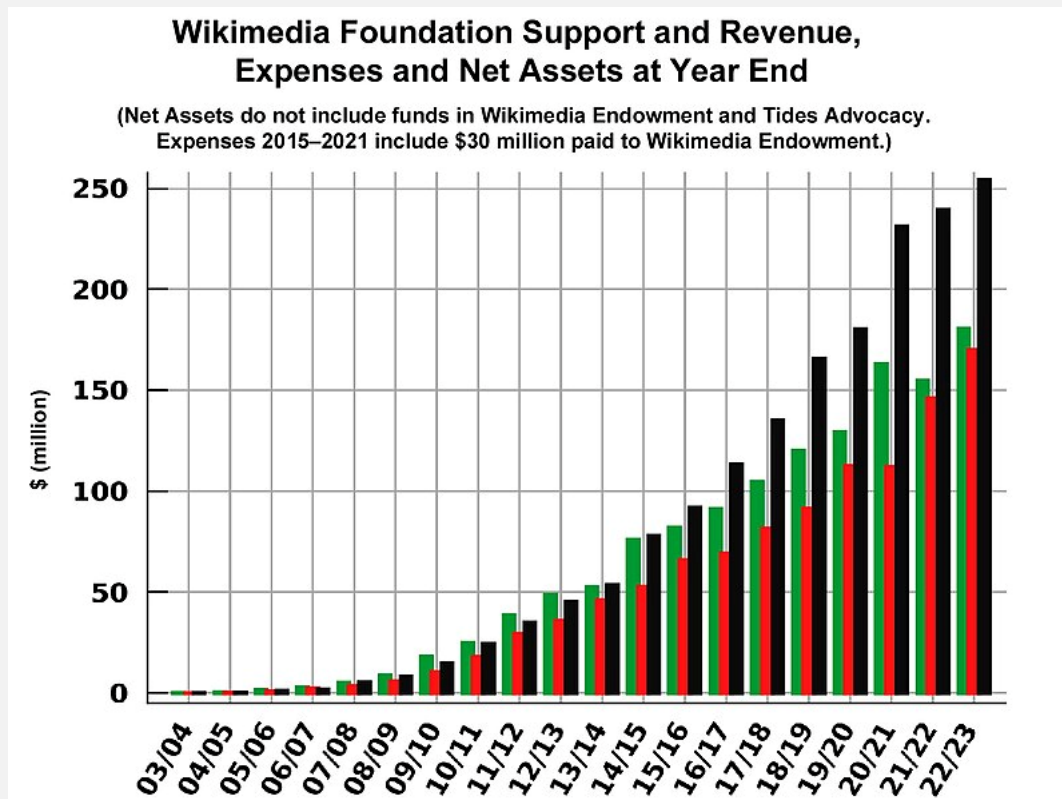
Wikimedia has some major donors listed on their website which reveal the deep ties Wikipedia has to Big Tech and some financiers who have often displayed nefarious designs with regards to India.

Relationship between Google and Wikipedia

When Wikipedia started, the relationship between Google and Wikipedia was collaborative and functional. Initially, Google had helped Wikipedia by downgrading several copy-cat websites which were clones of Wikipedia. In 2007, Google introduced Knol, a direct competitor of Wikipedia. At the time, Knol was compared to Wikipedia, however, it was branded as a "Wikipedia with moderation"[28].

Reports at the time said, Like Wikipedia, Knol (unlike many other Google products, officially it's just "Knol," not "Google Knol") allows anyone to create a page about any topic. By default, new pages are set to use "moderated collaboration," which means anyone can contribute to them but additions only go live after the page's main author or authors allow the contributions to be added".

It was widely then considered a failure and shut shop in 2012.

Thereafter, the relationship between Google and Wikipedia became far more intertwined and big-stake.

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[28] https://searchengineland.com/googles-knol-launches-like-wikipedia-with-moderation-14434

By 2008, it was being reported that most of Wikipedia's traffic was being generated from Google. Softpedia had reported, "Beside the 61 percent of visitors at home being redirected from to Google, Wikipedia also receives visits from Yahoo's search engine. The 19 percent of visitors at home places Yahoo second to Google's search engine. Microsoft and AOL's search engines total less of 10 percent of the traffic Wikipedia registers in the US"[29].

In 2010, while Knol was inching towards its demise, Google extended its first financial grant to Wikipedia. In February 2010, Google extended US$2,000,000 (2 million) to Wikipedia, calling it the "greatest triumph of the internet".[30]

Wikipedia founder and Wikimedia Foundation board member, Jimmy Wales, also commented on the Google gift: *"We are very pleased and grateful. This is a wonderful gift, and we celebrate it as recognition of the long-term alignment and friendship between Google and Wikimedia. Both organizations are committed to bringing high quality information to hundreds of millions of individuals every day, and to making the Internet better for everyone."*

By 2010, a working relationship between Google and Wikipedia had already been established. Wikimedia's press release from 2010 said, *"The two organizations have a long-standing working relationship. Most recently, Google and the Wikimedia Foundation have partnered to support translation of Wikipedia content into key languages with relatively small Wikipedia editions. Google's Translation Toolkit supports direct online translation of Wikipedia articles, and has been used by Google in Wikipedia translation pilot projects with speakers of Arabic, Hindi, and Swahili".*

In May 2012, Google launched a project known as the Google Knowledge Graph, which produced knowledge panels alongside traditional search engine results. Later, results from querying the knowledge graph complemented string-based search in producing the ranked list of search results as well. A large amount of the information presented in the knowledge panel info boxes is retrieved from Wikipedia.

If one Google's a public personality even today, the knowledge panel of that public person displayed prominently draws from Wikipedia.

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[29] https://news.softpedia.com/news/Wikipedia-Traffic-Mostly-from-Google-85703.shtml

[30] https://web.archive.org/web/20180529235914/https://wikimediafoundation.org/wiki/Press_releases/Wikimedia_Foundation_announces_$2_million_grant_from_Google

About

🌐 narendramodi.in

Narendra Damodardas Modi is an Indian politician serving as the current Prime Minister of India since 26 May 2014. Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat from 2001 to 2014 and is the Member of Parliament for Varanasi. Wikipedia

Born: 17 September 1950 (age 73 years), Vadnagar

Spouse: Jashodaben Modi (m. 1968)

Education: Gujarat University (1983), School of Open Learning, University of Delhi (1978)

Awards: Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin, Legion of Honour, Seoul Peace Prize, CNN-IBN Indian of the Year

Party: Bharatiya Janata Party

Height: 1.7 m

Feedback

Profiles

Instagram   X (Twitter)   Facebook   YouTube

In January 2019, Google donated $3 million to the Wikimedia Foundation.

In June 2022, Google and the Internet Archive were announced as Wikimedia Foundation's first customers, though only Google will be paying for the service.

Wikipedia's hold on the information that users consume is far greater than one imagines. Apart from the collaboration between Google and Wikipedia, where even vandalised pages slandering a public person would be displayed in the Google Knowledge Panel, Google is also using Wikipedia, which is widely considered biased and unreliable, as a means to 'fact-check' information.

In 2018, YouTube announced that they would be using information from Wikipedia to address the problem of misinformation on the website. In several videos, there is a panel

that is displayed below the video for the purpose of 'fact-checking'. This information is sourced directly from Wikipedia.

According to Wikimedia Foundation, it was in 2018 that Google and Wikimedia formalised their association and 'created a framework for partnership'.

The guiding principles in this partnership, as enumerated by Wikimedia are:

1. Transparency: Projects will be implemented in a publicly visible and accountable way. There will also be regular Wikimedia Foundation updates on this page regarding this partnership and its projects.
2. Conflict Free: No conflicts of interest and/or perceptions of corporate influence
3. Community Supported: Projects are supported by the greater Wikimedia movement
4. Mission Aligned: Alignment to key levers that drive attainment of the Wikimedia Foundation's mission

It is important that we keep in mind that one of the principles of the Wikimedia-Google partnership was to avoid "perceptions of corporate influence". This principle failed spectacularly – something which we will evidence later.

Google and Wikimedia decided on 3 focus areas[31].

1. Empowering editor communities to create content and grow multi-language Wikis through training, tools, and the development of new projects. This included Growing Local Language content on Wikipedia (GLOW) and Translate API where added Google Translate to the list of machine translation (MT) systems available for users of Content Translation.
2. Ensuring access to Wikipedia knowledge on and off-platform while powering volunteers' validation of Wikipedia content via manual review and scaled tools. Some of the projects under this focus area were, Google becoming a client of Wikimedia in 2022 under the Enterprise API license agreement, WikiLoop program - Originated from Google, WikiLoop is an umbrella program for a series of technical projects intended to contribute datasets and tools from the technical industry back to the open knowledge world and Vision API.
3. Wikimania & Regional Conference Sponsorships where Google supports the Wikimedia Foundation's Thriving Movement priority area by offering scholarships to Wikimedia contributors from underrepresented Wikis to participate at Wikimania and regional Wiki conferences, Google's Matching Gifts Program - The Wikimedia Foundation is among the top recipients of Google's employee matching gifts program, with contributions totalling more than $2.5M to the Foundation since 2006 and Corporate Donations - Google.org has also contributed directly to the Wikimedia Foundation and to the Wikimedia Endowment, supporting the Foundation's long-term sustainability.

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[31] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Overview_of_Wikimedia_Foundation_and_Google_Partnership

> ## What it means
>
> As discussed previously, Wikipedia content is controlled by a small group of all powerful administrators and editors. As is an established fact, as will be demonstrated later as well, there is a lot of slanderous content on various subjects – including public persons and organisations. This slanderous and often inaccurate content is broadcasted throughout the world as the 'ultimate truth' with no scope of dispute because of the ultimate hold of a handful of administrators and editors globally. With Google using Wikipedia to generate knowledge panels, the slanderous content on Wikipedia essentially becomes a "fact-sheet" for the relevant public person and/or organisation. Most of the times, such contentious pages about public persons and organisations are locked – which is to say that only a handful of editors and administrators would be able to edit it. Eventually, if someone attempts to correct the information or rectify the bias in the page, they are bullied, with their edits reverted and sometimes, the editors themselves banned by the administrators or senior editors. The result is that the slanderous information which Google drawn on is never rectified.

Big-Tech reliance – From Google to YouTube, AI and more

By 2021, there were several reports in the media calling Wikipedia a "refuge" from Big Tech's disinformation. Essentially, it served the interest of Wikimedia to portray as if they were a not-for-profit rag-tag project, working on a shoe-string budget and against the Big Tech hegemony, relying on the people for their good intentioned voluntary work. This narrative helps then ask for endless donations from people across the world.

Sample this 2021 article from CNET, for example. CNET wrote, "At 20, Wikipedia has become a refuge from Big Tech's misinformation - The online encyclopaedia is an unlikely beacon of reliability"[32].

This image served Wikimedia well, however, it was far from the truth.

Big-Tech and Wikimedia are intricately linked and are inseparable. As we would see in the following sections, a large chunk of the money that Wikimedia Foundation makes is from big-tech companies and foundations with a pronounced Left agenda. Further, as evidenced from the previous section – Google and Wikipedia are inextricably linked to each other.

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[32] https://www.cnet.com/tech/tech-industry/20-years-on-wikipedia-has-become-a-refuge-from-big-techs-sea-of-misinformation/

In 2022 Wikimedia started charging Big Tech to use their information and integrate it on their platforms. This was not because Wikimedia was inherently against Big Tech and wanted to reform the misinformation. But because Wikimedia admitted that they needed a way to ensure that Big Tech could give money to Wikimedia without being uncomfortable with their association with a not-for-profit.

In an article[33] titled "Wikipedia's Deep Ties to Big Tech", Institute for New Economic Thinking wrote:

> As a non-profit, Wikimedia does not have direct access to the wealth their for-profit Big Tech cousins enjoy. Instead, the firm relies on donations which, as illustrated below, are more than adequate to meet its needs. Its latest fundraising report lists about six million active donors large and small.
>
> However, it is not lost on the firm that Wikipedia content powers extraordinarily wealthy businesses. "There has long been a feeling among community members that these companies should do more to reinvest in the Wikimedia communities for the benefits they gain from the content and resources they use," wrote members of the team implementing a new service, Wikimedia Enterprise, a for-profit Delaware-based company to charge Big Tech for easier electronic access to Wikipedia content.
>
> Lest there be any ambiguity about who "these companies" are, they explain high-volume commercial reusers include "the 'info boxes' .. shown in search engine results," "voice-operated virtual assistants such as Siri and Alexa," and "augmented information .. such as in-flight entertainment systems or smartphones." For those who still don't get it, the term info boxes links to a Wikipedia article about Google's knowledge panel.
>
> Wikimedia argues for-profit high-volume information "reusers" (its term) have repeatedly asked for a dedicated service to efficiently funnel information away from the site and money towards it. Big Tech wants a contractual arrangement along with a service level agreement (SLA). Wikimedia argues it is unable to offer a contract or provide an SLA under its current legal scheme.
>
> When asked, Wikimedia representatives responded that the Big Tech businesses are uncomfortable supporting the non-profit through donations and that they'd prefer a more explicit fee-for-service arrangement. Furthermore, the ongoing practice of embedding Wikimedia content into the websites and information outlets of others deprives Wikimedia of an ability to advertise for donations which, over the long-run, may impact its ability to fundraise. Of course, many non-profit organizations charge for services. For example non-profit hospitals, universities, daycare's, gyms (YMCAs), subscriptions (Consumer Reports), and museums all charge for services without for-profit subsidiaries.

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[33] https://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/wikipedias-deep-ties-to-big-tech

Wikimedia argues it currently subsidizes Big Tech by providing the labour required for the coordination of information dissemination. The implication is that there are resources at Wikimedia with an incremental cost to feed data to Big Tech. A question asking for a guesstimate about how many people spend how much time on this activity went unanswered, along with all other written questions.

There are two aspects with respect to the Big Tech and Wikipedia partnership, which essentially makes Wikipedia a part of the Big Tech, not just a collaborator of Big Tech.

First is the funding it receives from companies like Google, Facebook and other big tech companies.

It is pertinent to note that the same report from the Institute of New Economic Thinking points out that even if Wikipedia stops making any money today, in terms of donations and contributions, Wikipedia can sustain itself for decades.

The report says, **"According to its latest financial disclosures, the Wikimedia Foundation has net assets adequate to run its servers for 75 years if it receives no further funds nor interest on its savings. Beyond that, the servers can hum along an additional 63 years from funds in a Wikimedia Endowment held by a partner charity, the Tides Foundation. Put into perspective, Wikimedia servers can function just under nine years from a one-time donation Wikimedia sent to Tides Advocacy in their last financial statement. They have about $1 million in reserves for every employee. Wikipedia is in no danger of going dark in our lifetime."**[34]

The other is how intricately integrated Wikipedia information is with all big tech platforms. Any AI platform relied on the information of Wikipedia. Alexa and Siri too rely on Wikipedia. YouTube, Google knowledge panels and other platforms reply on Wikipedia as well.

Essentially, Wikipedia (and Wikimedia) is far up the food chain as far as Big Tech is concerned and while it portrays itself as a rag tag 'for the people by the people' platform dependent on nominal donations from users across the world, it is a behemoth which is driving how the world consumes information and writing the world's history from a specific lens in real time.

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[34] https://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/wikipedias-deep-ties-to-big-tech

What it means

In 2022, it was projected as if Wikipedia was waging a war against big-tech and was therefore starting to charge Google for the use of its content. Several media houses peddled this theory. However, according to Wikimedia Foundation's own admission, they had asked big-tech, including Google, to pay for the content because they wanted to ensure that they could continue to receive funding from big-tech without companies like Google get uncomfortable with their association with an NGO. It is, therefore, evident that the image of Wikipedia as a small NGO trying to make ends meet and fighting an information battle against the big-tech is a carefully crafted one without telling the world the real collaboration between Wikimedia Foundation and big-tech, making Wikipedia itself a part of the big-tech club.

Following the money: Google-Wikimedia partnership – more to it than meets the eye

Most sources which reported the $2 million Google grant to Wikimedia in 2010, reported it as such – that Google extended this generous grant to Wikimedia Foundation.

In fact, the post[35] on Twitter (Now X) by Jimmy Wales at the time also simply said that Google had donated $2 million to Wikimedia Foundation.

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[35] https://x.com/jimmy_wales/status/9215187878

However, when one peruses the Wikimedia Press Release from 2010[36], a different angle emerges.

The 2010 Press Release specifically says, *"Earlier today we announced a generous $2 million (USD) grant to the Wikimedia Foundation from the Google Inc. Charity Fund at the Tides Foundation. This is the first gift to the Wikimedia Foundation from Google, and as an unrestricted gift we'll be able to support operations for Wikipedia and our other free knowledge projects across multiple priorities".*

The $2 million "gift" to Wikimedia Foundation was not just given by Google, but the *Google Charity Fund at the Tides Foundation.*

To understand the intricate network and how these Left organisations function, we first need to understand how Google functions and the foundations it is connected to.

Google Foundation and Tides Foundation

The Google Foundation (also known by its internet address, Google.org) is the corporate charitable arm of Alphabet Inc., and its subsidiary, Google. Created in 2005, the Google Foundation makes grants in four areas: education, economic opportunity, inclusion, and crisis response. Since 2004, it has received one percent of Alphabet/Google's net profits[37].

The Google Foundation is considered one of the main financiers of several Left Wing projects. Interestingly, one of the main not-for-profit concerns they fund is the Tides Foundation. The Tides Foundation received $59 million in 2016. Tides Foundation is a donor-advised fund for several Left-leaning NGOs and activities, according to InfluenceWatch, a project by US based think-tank Capital Research Center to track how public policy is influenced[38].

According to InfluenceWatch, *"Google Foundation contributed at least $70 million in the decade between 2007-2016 to organizations such as the Tides Foundation, a provider of ideologically left-wing donor-advised funds; Netroots, an annual conference of leftist bloggers; and the Natural Resources Defense Council, a left-wing environmentalist organization"*

While Google Foundation was financing Left Wing organisations, it was dissolved in 2018. A perusal of the IRS Form 990 PF revealed that in 2018, Google Foundation dissolved and transferred all its assets to Tide Foundation. In the 2018 IRS form, it is evident that Google Foundation had a little over $50 million and all of it was transferred to Tide Foundation.

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[36] https://diff.wikimedia.org/2010/02/17/googles-grant-is-good-news-for-wikimedia/
[37] https://www.philanthropyroundtable.org/magazine/winter-2017-interview-with-jacquelline-fuller/
[38] https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/google-foundation/

3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
MEASURES FOR JUSTICE 421 UNIVERSITY AVE ROCHESTER, NY 14607	N/A	PC	CHARITABLE	500,000.
FOUNDATION FOR LEARNING EQUALITY, INC. 9700 GILMAN DR, PMB 323 LA JOLLA, CA 92093	N/A	PC	CHARITABLE	3,298,505.
TIDES FOUNDATION P.O. BOX 29198 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	N/A	PC	PROGRAM/GENERAL SUPPORT	43,844,348.
UCP WHEELS FOR HUMANITY 12750 RAYMER STREET #4 NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605	N/A	PC	CHARITABLE	324,617.
RTI INTERNATIONAL 3040 EAST CORNWALLIS ROAD RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709	N/A	PC	CHARITABLE	892,200.
Total SEE CONTINUATION SHEET(S) ► 3a				50,264,173.

GOOGLE FOUNDATION   20-1548253

Part XV Supplementary Information

3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year (Continuation)				
Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
TIDES FOUNDATION P.O. BOX 29198 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	N/A	PC	CHARITABLE	844,448.
TIDES FOUNDATION P.O. BOX 29198 SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	N/A	PC	CHARITABLE	560,055.

Essentially, all of the assets and money of Google Foundation was dissolved and transferred to Tides Foundation with Google calling the shots as to how that money is donated through Tide Foundation.

It would appear that Google might not have wanted to be directly involved in the grants, however, Tide would do the bidding on Google's behalf moving forward.

```
EXPLANATION
_____
THE FOUNDATION WAS FORMED BY GOOGLE LLC, WHICH WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS
GOOGLE INC. ("GOOGLE"), IN 2004 TO CARRY OUT CHARITABLE GRANTMAKING
ACTIVITIES.  AFTER OVER 10 YEARS IN OPERATION, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE FOUNDATION AND GOOGLE, AS THE FOUNDATION'S SOLE MEMBER, HAVE
DETERMINED THAT THE FOUNDATION'S CHARITABLE PURPOSES WOULD BE BEST
FURTHERED BY DISSOLVING THE FOUNDATION AND TRANSFERRING ITS REMAINING
ASSETS TO TIDES FOUNDATION, A PUBLIC CHARITY THAT CAN BETTER FACILITATE
CHARITABLE GRANTMAKING ACTIVITIES WITH THOSE ASSETS.  ALTHOUGH THE
FOUNDATION WILL NO LONGER EXIST, THE CHARITABLE GRANTMAKING MISSION OF THE
FOUNDATION WILL CARRY ON THROUGH GOOGLE, WHICH WILL HAVE A ROLE IN
ADVISING ON THE GRANTS AWARDED FROM THESE ASSETS, IN ADDITION TO CARRYING
ON ITS OWN CHARITABLE GRANTMAKING ACTIVITIES.
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Google had explained in their Form 990 that it had decided that, *"The foundation's charitable purposes would be best furthered by dissolving the foundation and transferring its remaining assets to Tide Foundation, a public charity that can better facilitate charitable grant making activities with those assets. Although the foundation will no longer exist, **the charitable grant making mission of the foundation will carry on through Google, which will have a role in advising on the grants awarded from these assets…"*** (emphasis added).

What Google essentially meant was that they will not be directly named in the grants they provide to NGOs, however, they will 'advise' Tide Foundations where to donate the money.

What it means

Google has been funding several Leftist NGOs through Tides Foundation. Till 2018, it was financing certain NGOs directly through its foundation. However, after 2018, it dissolved its foundation and transferred all its assets to Tides Foundation. The stated goal of doing this was to ensure that the grants that Google was doling out would continue through Tides Foundation, with Google advising Tides for grant-making. It is often difficult to list all the recipients of the grants given by Tides Foundation because it operates several donor-directed funds where the recipients of grants are not disclosed. Therefore, it would appear that Google has been directing Tides Foundation to dole out grants in a clandestine manner. Google and Tides Foundation are inextricably linked. Google and Wikimedia Foundation are inextricably linked. And as we see further, Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation are also inextricably linked.

So far, it appears that it was the Google-Tide fund which started giving donations to Wikimedia Foundations in 2010. Google continued to be a massive benefactor of Wikimedia Foundation since on their website, even in the grants list after the year 2022, Google.org and Google Matching Gifts Foundation appear as 'Major Benefactors'.
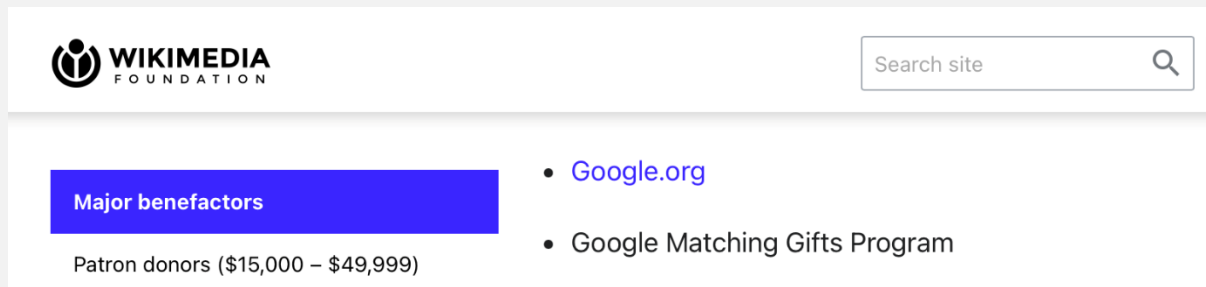
Google giving donations and grants to Wikimedia Foundation is coupled with the fact that the integration of Wikipedia and Wikimedia content across all Google platforms is near 100% and complete.

Wikimedia Endowment Fund

The Wikimedia Endowment Fund was formed in January 2016. Wikimedia wrote[39], *"As part of this milestone, the Wikimedia Foundation is pleased to announce the Wikimedia Endowment, a permanent source of funding to ensure Wikipedia thrives for generations to come. The Wikimedia Endowment will empower people around the world to create and contribute free knowledge, and share that knowledge with every single human being. **Our goal is to raise $100 million over the next 10 years. The Endowment has been established, with an initial contribution by the Wikimedia Foundation, as a Collective Action Fund at the Tides Foundation".** (emphasis added)

It further wrote, *"The purpose of the Wikimedia Endowment is to serve as a perpetual source of support for the operation and activities of Wikipedia and its sister projects. It will empower people around the world to create and contribute free knowledge, and share that knowledge with every single human being. The Endowment has been established, with an initial contribution by Wikimedia Foundation, as a Collective Action Fund at Tides Foundation. Tides is a public charity with a 40-year track record of holding and managing charitable funds for nonprofit organizations. **An Advisory Board, nominated by the Wikimedia Foundation and appointed by Tides, will make recommendations to Tides related to the Endowment. Tides or the Wikimedia Foundation may choose to transfer the Endowment from Tides to the Wikimedia Foundation, or other charities identified by the Wikimedia Foundation. At that point, the Endowment would continue to be a permanent, income-generating fund to support the Wikimedia projects".** (emphasis added)

From the Wikimedia statement, certain things become apparent:

1. The Wikimedia Endowment Fund was meant to be a fund which could ensure the functioning of Wikipedia.
2. The aim was to collect $100 million by 2026.
3. It was a Tides Foundation Collection Action Fund
4. The advisory board of this Endowment Fund was appointed by Tides after being nominated by Wikimedia Foundation.

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[39] https://diff.wikimedia.org/2016/01/14/wikipedia-15-foundation-endowment/

5. The funds would be transferred from Tides to Wikimedia Foundation at the choosing of either parties.
6. OTHER charities identified could also benefit from the Wikimedia Endowment Fund.

It was, however, interesting to note how the formation of the Endowment Fund was packaged by the media and Wikimedia itself.

Wikimedia Foundation in its announcement category mentioned that the Endowment Fund was specifically to keep Wikipedia running. The Guardian in its report[40] attempted to make it sound like a frugal exercise to keep the rag-tag not-for-profit free encyclopaedia running.

The Guardian wrote in its report, *"The Wikimedia Endowment has been set up as a "permanent safekeeping fund" managed by the charity Tides Foundation, and could reduce Wikipedia's reliance on annual donation drives to keep its service running".*

This was, of course, the same line of argument that Wikimedia and Jimmy Wales were taking.

The Guardian report went on, *"A Google search for "death of Wikipedia" yields more than 72k results, with articles from 2006 onwards predicting that the online encyclopaedia was on its way out for various reasons". Quoting Jimmy Wales, it said, "It's more fun looking back at those stories than seeing them at the time," said Wales. "As a charity, we've always been focused on our community and our mission. We're not subject to a lot of the external metrics – we don't have debt, we don't have investors – that high-flying dotcoms are."*

In the same article, The Wikimedia Foundation's chief advancement officer Lisa Gruwell said, *"We have a great fundraising model right now, but things on the Internet change so it's not something we can count on forever".*

Ronan Gruenbaum, dean, undergraduate London at Hult International Business School said, *"Its ability to remain independent and ad-free is impressive and one can only hope it manages this in the long term, but short of finding a billionaire benefactor it seems somewhat precarious to rely on donations for its survival".*

It was further reported by Guardian that the endowment will start with less than $1m donated by the estate of software engineer Jim Pacha, which hints at potential to raise its $100m from similar bequests. The annual donation drive from users will continue alongside the endowment.

From what Jimmy Wales said to what Ronan Gruenbaum and Lisa Gruwell said, one would be under the impression that $100 million was an ambitious goal to set for Wikimedia and also, that it was a frugal company merely surviving on small donations. It would also give the impression that Wikipedia was incredibly independent, free from ads and donor/corporate considerations.

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[40] https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jan/15/wikipedia-fund-future

That, however, is far from the truth.

In September 2021, the Foundation announced that the Wikimedia Endowment had reached its initial $100 million fundraising goal in June 2021, five years ahead of its initial target[41]. In January 2024, the endowment was reported to have a value of $140 million.

Peter Baldwin and his wife, Lisbet Rausing, donated $5 million to it in 2017. In 2018, major donations to the endowment were received from Amazon and Facebook and George Soros. In 2019, donations included $2 million from Google, $3.5 million more from Baldwin and Rausing, $2.5 million more from Newmark, and another $1 million from Amazon in October 2019 and again in September 2020.

According to the Wikimedia Endowment Fund page current, here are some notable patrons of the Tide Foundation run endowment fund which is noteworthy[42]:

1. Amazon - $5 million +
2. Google.org - $2 million +
3. George Soros - $2 million +
4. Musk Foundation - $2 million +
5. Facebook - $1 million +
6. The Rothschild Foundation - $50,000 +

The Wikimedia Endowment Fund moved to an independent 501c3 charity in July 2023, however, up until July 2023, it was under the Tides Foundation[43].

In September 2023, after the Wikimedia Endowment became independent and long achieved its stated goal of collecting $100 million by 2025, Wikimedia Foundation announced that it would be extended its donation drive and collecting more funds to secure Wikipedia's future further.

"With the Wikimedia Endowment now entering a new phase of its maturity, the Wikimedia Endowment Board has authorized a new multi-year fundraising campaign that will allow the endowment to return even greater support for Wikimedia projects for years to come", the press release said.

It would be worthy to remember here that research[44] had proved in 2021 itself that **if Wikimedia Foundation and its Endowment had stopped making any revenue at all, the Wikipedia servers would still run for maybe a century**. After crossing $140 million in just the endowment, Wikimedia Foundation announced further fund raising. In 2023, the Wikimedia Foundation's revenue was over $180 million. It was recently in 2022 and 2023 that Wikipedia had aggressively solicited donations from Indian users.

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[41] https://wikimediafoundation.org/news/2021/09/22/wikimedia-foundation-reaches-100-million-endowment-goal/
[42] https://wikimediaendowment.org/#board-of-directors
[43] https://wikimediaendowment.org/financials/
[44] 44 https://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/wikipedias-deep-ties-to-big-tech

Despite being in such 'comfortable' position financially, here are some of the messages that Indian users would get:

Article | Talk

Read | Edit | View history

Search Wikipedia

ⓘ To all our readers in India,

Please don't scroll past this. This Tuesday, we request you to sustain Wikipedia's independence. 98% of our readers don't donate; they simply keep reading. If you are an exceptional reader who has already donated, we sincerely thank you. If you donate just ₹ 75 today, Wikipedia could keep growing for years. We request you: please don't scroll away. If Wikipedia has given you ₹ 75 worth of knowledge, kindly take a minute to donate. Show the world that access to reliable, neutral information matters to you. Thank you.

1. Select an amount (INR)
   The average donation in India is ₹ 313.
   ○ ₹ 75   ○ ₹ 300   ○ ₹ 500
   ○ ₹ 1,000   ○ ₹ 1,500   ○ ₹ 3,000
   ○ ₹ 5,000   ○ Other

2. Please select a payment method
   VISA AMEX RuPay   NETBanking UPI Paytm

   Continue

Problems donating? | Other ways to give | Frequently asked questions | We never sell your information. By submitting, you are agreeing to our donor privacy policy and to sharing your information with the Wikimedia Foundation and its service providers in the U.S. and elsewhere.

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Search Wikipedia   Search

Wikipedia is not for sale.
A personal message from Jimmy Wales

Please don't skip this 1-minute read. I'm sorry to interrupt, but our fundraiser won't last long. This Friday, 1 September, I humbly request you to reflect on the number of times you visited Wikipedia in the past year, the value you got from it, and whether you're able to contribute ₹ 25. If you can, kindly join the 2% of readers who donate. If everyone reading this right now gave ₹ 25, we'd reach our goal in a couple of hours.

Email me later | I already donated

Wikipedia still won't be sold.
4 September: An important update for readers in India.

Today is the day, please consider taking a minute to read this. We're sorry to interrupt, but it's Wednesday, 4 September, and our fundraiser doesn't last long. Kindly reflect on the number of times you visited Wikipedia this past year and whether you're able to donate ₹ 25 to the Wikimedia Foundation. If everyone reading this gave ₹ 25, we'd reach our goal in a few hours.

In the age of AI, access to verifiable facts is crucial. Wikipedia is at the heart of online information, powering everything from your personal searches to emerging AI technologies. Your donation strengthens the knowledge of today and tomorrow.

Just 2% of our readers donate, so if you have given in the past and Wikipedia still provides you with ₹ 25 worth of knowledge, kindly donate today. If you are undecided, remember that any contribution helps, whether it's ₹ 25 or ₹ 1,000.

What it means

As demonstrated, Wikimedia Foundation, Wikimedia Endowment Fund and Tides Foundation have an inextricable link. This would also logically mean that Wikimedia Foundation and its endowment fund is dispersing grants through Tides Foundation to NGOs and organisation that may not be fully disclosed. A report has also indicated that Tides Foundation and Wikimedia Foundation give money to each other, but chart it as 'anonymous' donations because they are not obligated to reveal details when it's a donor-directed fund. Further, Further, as indicated, Wikimedia Foundation has enough money to keep Wikipedia alive and running for decades, even if does not earn another penny either from donations or donations from corporates. The fact that Wikimedia Foundation continues to get donations and grants much beyond what it needs to run Wikipedia, in the name of Wikipedia, points to a few thing. Firstly, Wikimedia Foundation is spending millions in grants to further its own business interests. Second, it is extending grants to Left organisations with the money it collects in the name of keeping Wikipedia alive and claiming that without these donations, Wikipedia would cease to exist (a lie). All of this happens behind the garb of keeping 'knowledge free' and Wikimedia uses this trope to skirt the law of the land, especially in India, as would be demonstrated further in this paper.

Wikimedia Foundation

Wikimedia Foundation campaigns aggressively for donations from individuals and tech companies/philanthropists. As was seen in screenshots shared above, in September 2024, Wikimedia Foundation was aggressively asking Indians to pay as little as Rs 25 to keep Wikipedia alive, declaring it 'still won't be sold'.

As a 501(c)(3) charity, the Foundation is exempt from federal and state income tax. The Foundation's net assets grew from an initial $57,000 at the end of its first fiscal year, ending June 30, 2004, to $53.5 million in mid-2014 and $231 million (plus a $100 million endowment) by the end of June 2021. The Wikimedia Foundation assets and the endowment has only grown since then.

The Wikimedia Foundation's net asset at the end of 2022-2023 stood at a whopping $254,971,336[45].

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[45] https://wikimediafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Wikimedia_Foundation_FS_FY2022-2023_Audit_Report.pdf#page=6

Where does the Wikimedia Foundation money come from

A substantial part of Wikimedia Foundation's revenue comes from individual donors. According to the 2022-2023 fundraising report issued by Wikimedia Foundation, their fundraising program has over 7.5 million donors giving an average donation of $11.38 in the 2022-2023 fiscal year (FY 22-23).

According to the summary of grants to Wikimedia Foundations on the Wikipedia page[46], The Wikimedia Foundation has received a steady stream of grants from other foundations throughout its history. In 2008, the Foundation received a $40,000 grant from the Open Society Institute to create a printable version of Wikipedia It also received a $262,000 grant from the Stanton Foundation to purchase hardware $500,000 unrestricted grant from Vinod and Neeru Khosla, who later that year joined the Foundation advisory board, and $177,376 from the historians Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin (Arcadia Fund), among others. In March 2008, the Foundation announced what was then its largest donation yet: a three-year, $3 million grant from the Sloan Foundation.

In 2009, the Foundation received four grants. The first was a $890,000 Stanton Foundation grant to help study and simplify the user interface for first-time authors of Wikipedia. The second was a $300,000 Ford Foundation grant in July 2009 for Wikimedia Commons, to improve the interface for uploading multimedia files. In August 2009, the Foundation received a $500,000 grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Also in August 2009, the Omidyar Network committed up to $2 million over two years to Wikimedia. In 2010, Google donated $2 million and the Stanton Foundation granted $1.2 million to fund the Public Policy Initiative, a pilot program for what later became the Wikipedia Education Program (and the spin-off Wiki Education Foundation).

In March 2011, the Sloan Foundation authorized another $3 million grant, to be funded over three years, with the first $1 million to come in July 2011 and the remaining $2 million to be funded in August 2012 and 2013. As a donor, Doron Weber from the Sloan Foundation gained Board Visitor status at the Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees. In August 2011, the Stanton Foundation pledged to fund a $3.6 million grant of which $1.8 million was funded and the remainder was to come in September 2012. As of 2011, this was the largest grant the Wikimedia Foundation had ever received. In November 2011, the Foundation received a $500,000 donation from the Brin Wojcicki Foundation.

In 2012, the Foundation was awarded a grant of $1.25 million from Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin through the Charities Aid Foundation, scheduled to be funded in five equal instalments from 2012 through 2015. In 2014, the Foundation received the largest single gift in its history, a $5 million unrestricted donation from an anonymous donor supporting $1 million worth of expenses annually for the next five years. In March 2012, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, established by the Intel co-founder and his wife, awarded the Wikimedia Foundation a $449,636 grant to develop Wikidata. This was part of a larger grant,

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[46] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation

much of which went to Wikimedia Germany, which took on ownership of the development effort.

Between 2014 and 2015, the Foundation received $500,000 from the Monarch Fund, $100,000 from the Arcadia Fund and an undisclosed amount from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation to support the Wikipedia Zero initiative. In 2015, a grant agreement was reached with the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to build a search engine called the "Knowledge Engine", a project that proved controversial. In 2017, the Sloan Foundation awarded another $3 million grant for a three-year period, and Google donated another $1.1 million to the Foundation in 2019.

The grants to Wikimedia Foundation as listed above[47] is independent of the grants they receive in their endowment - which has already been discussed. There are several other donors to Wikipedia Foundation like Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, Netflix Matching Gifts, Adobe etc. Rockefeller Foundation is also one of the major patrons and donors of Wikimedia Foundation as listed in their annual reports.

Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation

The Wikimedia Foundation itself disperses several grants to other organisations. Essentially, a part of the money that Wikimedia Foundation collects via donations goes to several NGOs and Foundations that run agendas and campaigns which have nothing to do with Wikipedia. In fact, as we would see later, most of the substantial grants that Wikimedia Foundation gets and the grants that it disburses are too severely Left-leaning (some even radical Left in nature) – which could also explain the radical Left bias of Wikipedia itself.

The funding between Wikimedia, Tides Foundation and Tides Advocacy

It is an established fact that Wikimedia Foundation introduced an Endowment which was hosted by Tides Foundation, however, the financial transactions between Wikimedia and Tides Foundation/Advocacy have been shrouded in mystery.

In the financial of Wikimedia Foundation, Tides Foundation made its first appearance in 2017.

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[47] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation

Part II | **Grants and Other Assistance to Domestic Organizations and Domestic Governments.** Complete if the organization answered "Yes 990, Part IV, line 21, for any recipient that received more than $5,000. Part II can be duplicated if additional space is needed.

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of non-cash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance
(1) WIKIMEDIA NEW YORK CITY, INC.						
227 DEAN STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11217	27-0520584	501(C)(3)	148,050.			s
(2) TIDES FOUNDATION						
P.O. BOX 29903 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	51-0198509	501(C)(3)	5,000,000.			s
(3) BLACK LUNCH TABLE						
6225 N KENMORE AVE, APT 2N, CHICAGO IL 60660	82-5436759	501(C)(3)	53,000.			s
(4) SOFTWARE FREEDOM CONSERVANCY						
137 MONTAGUE STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11201	41-2203632	501(C)(3)	45,500.			s
(5) CREATIVE COMMONS						
PO BOX 1866 MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94042	04-3585301	501(C)(3)	10,000.			s
(6) MUSEUM FOR AFRICAN ART, DBA THE AFRICA CENT						
1280 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 7C	13-3137461	501(C)(3)	50,000.			s
(7) EMERSON COLLEGE						
120 BOYLSTON STREET BOSTON, MA 02116	04-1286950	501(C)(3)	7,843.			s
(8) QUBIT NEW MUSIC INC.						
523 WEST 143RD STREET, SUITE 2B, NEW YORK	46-0659995	501(C)(3)	119,795.			s
(9) WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY						
ONE WATERFRONT PLACE, 7TH FL, MORGANTOWN,WV	55-6017181	501(C)(3)	52,835.			s
(10) WIKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION						
11 FUNSTON AVE SUITE A, SAN FRANCISCO, CA	30-0790695	501(C)(3)	397,974.			s
(11) WIKI SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC						
PO BOX 9822 WASHINGTON, DC 20013	45-2106571	501(C)(3)	45,269.			s
(12) YALE UNIVERSITY						
PO BOX 805 NEW HAVEN, CT 06503	06-0646973	501(C)(3)	185,000.			s

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table . . . . ▶
3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table . . . . ▶

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The stated purpose of the grant extended to Tides Foundation was 'To support work to further mission".

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SCHEDULE I, PART II

PURPOSE OF GRANT TO WIKIMEDIA NEW YORK CITY,INC.: TO SUPPORT WORK TO

FURTHER MISSION.

PURPOSE OF GRANT TO TIDES FOUNDATION: TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER

MISSION.

PURPOSE OF GRANT TO BLACK LUNCH TABLE: TO SUPPORT A CONFERENCE TO

FURTHER

MISSION.
```

In 2018, there was again a 'grant' of $5 million to Tides Foundation in the financials of Wikimedia Foundation.

(6) TIDES FOUNDATION				
P.O. BOX 29903 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	51-0198509	501(C)(3)	5,000,000.	

In both these cases, the purpose was to support mission and further activity.

The Wikipedia page on the Endowment Fund[48] says, *"The Foundation itself has provided annual grants of $5 million to its Endowment since 2016. These amounts have been recorded as part of the Foundation's "awards and grants" expenses.".*

The Wikimedia Foundation fundraising report mentions[49] that "six annual payments of $5 million the Wikimedia Foundation made to the Wikimedia Endowment, from the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, to the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021".

Therefore, it is expected that every year, started from the 2017 Financial report, one could expect a $5 million transfer to Tides Foundation – which was made for the Wikimedia Endowment Fund.

However, there were fund transfers to Tide Foundation which exceeded the $5 million, which was to be deposited in the Wikimedia Endowment Fund, managed by Tides Foundation.

In the year 2019, for example, two grants were extended by Wikimedia Foundation to Tides Foundation. 1 was the usual $5 million transfer to the Endowment Fund.

(10) TIDES FOUNDATION				
P.O. BOX 29903 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	51-0198509	501(C)(3)		5,000,000.
(11) TIDES ADVOCACY				
PO BOX 29229 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	94-3153687	501(C)(3)		8,723,000.

Wikimedia Foundation also sent an additional $8.72 million to Tides Advocacy, a different but related organization, in the year ending 2020.

Around the same time that Wikimedia Foundation gave a 'grant' of $8.72 million to Tides Advocacy, it appointed Amanda Keton is General Counsel for the Wikimedia Foundation.

According to the press note issued by Wikimedia Foundation[50], *"prior to joining Wikimedia, Amanda was General Counsel of Tides Network, a national public foundation deploying donor-advised grants and investments to build a world of shared prosperity and social justice. While in that role, she worked with the Wikimedia Foundation to establish the Wikimedia Endowment, a source of funding to support the Wikimedia projects and mission in perpetuity. She also served as Head of Tides Foundation and People Operations as well as CEO of Tides Advocacy, the policy affiliate in the Tides family of organizations".*

In the same press note, Wikimedia Foundation also said that they believed in advocacy and emphasised on the important of it.

What is interesting to note here is that in none of the documents of Wikimedia Foundation, annual reports etc, is this grant of $8.72 million explained.

[48] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation
[49] https://wikimediaendowment.org/financials/
[50] https://wikimediafoundation.org/news/2019/10/03/wikimedia-foundation-welcomes-amanda-keton-as-general-counsel/

In 2020, $5,529,704 million was transferred from Wikimedia Foundation to Tides Foundation.

In 2020, the Wikimedia Foundation had announced that it was extending a $4.5 million to Tides Foundation for a "Knowledge Equity Fund"[51] mentioning that the fund was to provide grants to organizations whose work would not otherwise be covered by Wikimedia grants but addresses racial inequities in accessing and contributing to free knowledge resources[52].

So far, there is no indication of how much Wikimedia Foundation is paying Tides as fees for managing their funds and endowments. In fact, in one of the discussion boards, it was made clear by the Wikimedia Foundation that the amount which Wikimedia Foundation pays Tides Foundation to run its Endowment Fund will not be disclosed[53]. Therefore, there is no way to confirm if the excess amount was transferred towards fees or other advocacy.

Tides Foundation relationship

Latest comment: 2 years ago | 2 comments | 2 people in discussion

Julia, could you please explain how the financial relationship with the Tides Foundation works? Tides presumably takes some payment for its services. How is that handled?

Does Tides charge a management fee, or a commission on income generated from investments, or retain some of the investment income (e.g. anything in excess of some agreed percentage) in lieu of payment for its managment services? How should people think of the service relationship?

Could you say how much money Tides has made from the Wikimedia Endowment since it was set up in 2016? And are there any other beneficiaries (consultants e.g.) that have received payments out of the funds collected for the Endowment? Thanks, --Andreas JN466 11:43, 20 October 2021 (UTC)

Reply

Hi Andreas,
We have an agreement with the Tides Foundation which covers the administration of the Endowment. As a matter of practice, we do not disclose specific terms of contracts with our vendors. You can see more about the setup with Tides and the plan to set up a separate 501c3 on the Endowment FAQ. JBrungs (WMF) (talk) 05:49, 29 October 2021 (UTC) Reply

In 2021, the IRS documents of Wikimedia Foundation ended up proving that the information on Wikipedia is not accurate.

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[51] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Knowledge_Equity_Fund

[52] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation#:~:text=In%202020%2C%20the%20Foundation%20donated,contributing%20to%20free%20knowledge%20resources.

[53] https://meta.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?title=Talk%3AWikimedia_Endowment&diff=22261671&oldid=22212461#Tides_Foundation_relationship

1 (a) Name and address of organization or government	(b) EIN	(c) IRC section (if applicable)	(d) Amount of cash grant	(e) Amount of noncash assistance	(f) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)	(g) Description of noncash assistance	(h) Purpose of grant or assistance
TIDES FOUNDATION P.O. BOX 29903, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	51-0198509	501(C)(3)	516,650.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.
WIKI EDUCATION FOUNDATION 11 FUNSTON AVE SUITE A SAN FRANCISCO CA 94129	30-0790695	501(C)(3)	500,000.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.
ART+FEMINISM, INC 323 W 39TH STREET, SUITE 912, NEW YORK, NY 10018	83-2919353	501(C)(3)	337,527.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.
IDEAS BEYOND BORDERS 244 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 2594 NEW YORK, NY 10001	82-1447974	501(C)(3)	325,335.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.
BLACK LUNCH TABLE 6225 N KENMORE AVE, APT 2N, CHICAGO, IL 60660	82-5436759	501(C)(3)	301,799.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.
TIDES ADVOCACY PO BOX 29229, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129	94-3153687	501(C)(3)	300,000.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.

2 Enter total number of section 501(c)(3) and government organizations listed in the line 1 table ▶ 21.
3 Enter total number of other organizations listed in the line 1 table ▶ 0.
LHA **For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 990.** Schedule I (Form 990) 2021

In the 2021 IRS file of Wikimedia Foundation, they reveal that they gave a $516,650 grant to Tides Foundation and a $300,000 grant to Tides Advocacy.

There is no explanation as to what these grants were given for. Even if we assume that in this specific year, the grant extended by Wikimedia Foundation to their Endowment Fund (run by Tides Foundation) was not $5 million but a little over $500,000, the $300,000 to Tides Advocacy remains unexplained.

In 2022, Wikimedia Foundation transferred $1,487,648 to Tides Foundation.

Lack of transparency between Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation

According to an article by Institute for New Economic Thinking, there is an inherent lack of transparency in the transactions between Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation.

The report reads[54]:

> Tides runs a series of charities that enable donors to anonymously pledge money which Tides then uses for grants to progressive organizations. There are several related but legally separate Tides charities, the largest being the Tides Foundation with 2019 net assets of $558 million. Tides are Donor Advised Funds: anonymous donors may direct Tides what to do with their donations though they may also choose to leave funding decisions to Tides. Tides discloses its largest benefactors by the amount donated without listing the identities of the individuals or organizations.

[54] https://www.ineteconomics.org/perspectives/blog/wikipedias-deep-ties-to-big-tech

Disbursements are reported but whose money went to which cause is entirely opaque.

Wikimedia both donates to the Tides Foundation and simultaneously receives money from the organization. Despite repeated donations of $5 million, and a badge listing Wikimedia on their homepage along with other major donors, Tides does not list the $5 million donations from Wikimedia except for one year.

In 2014 and 2015, Tides Foundation listed the top nine benefactors; the Wikimedia grant is presumably one of two $5 million entries. However, beginning in the year ending 2016, Tides lists fewer benefactors (four entries for 2016 and 2018 and five for 2017 and 2019). None of the benefactors are for exactly $5,000,000 and the figures seem to cut off just over the $5 million mark.

Google's former charity, Google.org, shuttered the year ending 2018. Google made two large donations to Tides Foundation, a total of $50,264,173 listed in their 2018 disclosure (consisting of three donations: $43,844,348, $844,448, and $560,055) and $76,385,901 in 2017. Neither matches a line-item amount Tides Foundation reported for the corresponding years. Google also contributes money directly to both Wikimedia and the Wikimedia Endowment, announcing a $7.5 million donation at the 2019 Word Economic Forum.

While Wikimedia donates money to Tides – to support its endowment and Knowledge Equity Fund (via Tides Advocacy) – Tides also donates money to Wikimedia. However, the Tides donations do not appear in Wikimedia annual reports, which list major benefactors who donate amounts above $50,000 except for a pass-through donation from Google ("The Google Foundation of Tides Foundation."). Other donations from Tides to Wikimedia are presumably lumped into the group of anonymous donors.

On October 7, 2019, Amanda Keton joined Wikimedia as General Counsel. She came to Wikimedia from Tides where her work included setting up the Wikimedia Endowment and serving as CEO of Tides Advocacy, the Tides charity that Wikimedia donated $8.7 million to in 2019, the year Keton switched. That donation is in addition to Wikimedia's ordinary annual $5,000,000 contribution to the endowment. As with other funds held at Tides, donations are separate from expenditures making it impossible to definitively trace what the donated funds were used for.

The extensive ties to Tides – an organization which often hides funding sources – is an odd choice of partners for the purportedly transparent Wikimedia.

Tides Foundation – Funding anti-India, anti-Hindu organisations and narratives

As detailed, Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation are intricately interwoven. Along with Wikimedia, Google and Tides Foundation are also intricately woven. It is pertinent to know that all three seem to have financial relationship with each other – with Google funding its activism through Tides Foundation, Google funding Wikimedia Foundation and Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation/Tides Advocacy funding each other. Most importantly, Wikimedia Foundation is on record saying that it funds certain activities and causes through Tides which it cannot fund itself.

It therefore becomes important to understand the nature of Tides Foundation, Tides Advocacy and its nexus, along with what are the causes that Tides is espousing.

According to InfluenceWatch[55], "The Tides Foundation is a major centre-left grant making organization and a major pass-through funder to numerous left-leaning nonprofits. The San Francisco, California-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit was founded in 1976 by Drummond Pike, a professional political activist who has since retired from the organization, to funnel grants from liberal donors to centre-left nonprofits using donor-advised funds, encouraging individuals to donate to Tides since they would hold an advisory role in its grant making. Donor-advised funds are a kind of charitable "savings account" in which donors gift funds to grow in Tides' investment accounts before advising Tides to pay out the funds in grants to other (typically left-leaning) nonprofits. Since 2007, the Tides Foundation has reported revenues totaling $2.6 billion. In 2020, the Tides Foundation paid out $607 million in grants".

Essentially, Tides Foundation/Tides Advocacy/Tides Network and other Tides organisations in the nexus serve as a medium to funnel funds to Left leaning organisations – sometimes in plain sight and sometimes, to avoid detection. As illustrated earlier, the fund exchange between Tides Foundation/Tides Advocacy and the Wikimedia Foundation has been clandestine and the lack of transparency has been widely criticised. In fact, there are details of how Wikimedia and Tides are funding each other by being 'anonymous' in several situations.

Who funds the Tides nexus

The Tides Foundation, one of the central players in the nexus of Tides outfits, is an NGO which prides itself in keeping its donors anonymous. According to InfluenceWatch[56], "Since its creation, donor-advised funds (DAFs) have formed the basis of the Tides Foundation's grant making services. DAFs act as a kind of "charitable savings account," enabling donors to gift tax-deductible funds to the Tides Foundation for the organization to invest and grow in individual accounts. Donors may then designate recipients for the Tides Foundation to make grants to from their accounts. This has the added effect of effectively masking (or "washing") the original donors, since grants from Tides do not reveal which donor directed the funds and the IRS does not require 501(c)(3) nonprofits such as Tides to disclose its donors.

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[55] https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/tides-foundation/
[56] https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/tides-foundation/

The Tides Foundation has been described as an organization that "washes" away the paper trail between its grants and the original donor. Tides Founder Drummond Pike stated[57], "Anonymity is very important to most of the people we work with."

Essentially, Tides Foundation is a 'pass through' organisation where several donors set up donor advised funds and while staying anonymous, fund Left causes and organisations.

While the funds received by Tides Foundation and the recipient of those funds are difficult to trace precisely, there is some amount of information available through 'foundation search'. InfluenceWatch did a study and zeroed in on certain notable grants to the Tides Foundation from 1998 to 2018:

Annie E. Casey Foundation: $946,500
Arca Foundation: $542,000
Bauman Family Foundation: $2,773,787
California Endowment: $4,265,828
Carnegie Corporation of New York: $823,486
David and Lucile Packard Foundation: $492,000
Ford Foundation: $26,410,759
George Soros' Foundation to Promote Open Society: $10,259,289
George Soros' Open Society Foundations: $12,130,241
Gill Foundation: $3,292,700
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation: $340,986
Nick and Leslie Hanauer Foundation: $640,384
Oak Foundation USA: $392,754
Omidyar Network Fund: $818,000
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: $2,236,350
Rockefeller Brothers Fund: $5,373,108
Rockefeller Family Fund: $460,914
Rockefeller Foundation: $1,661,055
Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors: $3,525,000
W.K. Kellogg Foundation: $3,131,201
Wallace Global Fund II: $8,621,001
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation: $8,317,690

While we have already seen how Wikimedia Foundation gives grants to Tides Foundation and Tides Advocacy and how, Tides funds Wikimedia as well, however, in a clandestine manner. InfluenceWatch was able to trace 3 donations to Tides Foundation which were directly meant for Wikimedia Foundation. This is presumably the tip of the iceberg and only a fraction of the grants that has been traced.

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[57] https://www.influencewatch.org/non-profit/tides-foundation/

Donor to Tides Foundation (1998-2018)	Amount	Year	Grant Description
John and Wendy Neu Foundation	$26,500	2017	Wikimedia Foundation
Fidelity Investments Charitable Gift Fund	$26,500	2016	Wikimedia Foundation
Christensen Fund	$26,500	2015	Wikimedia Foundation
Grand Total:	**$702,721,386**		

SHOWING 1 TO 3 OF 3 ENTRIES (FILTERED FROM 1,966 TOTAL ENTRIES)   ‹ PREVIOUS   NEXT ›

The Tides Foundation and Tides Centre also receive grants from the U.S. federal government. Between 1997 and 2001, these grants included the following: $395,219 from the Department of Interior; $3,350,431 from the Environmental Protection Agency; $3,487,040 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; $208,878 from the Department of Agriculture; $39,550 from the Department of Energy; $93,500 from the Small Business Administration; $10,986 from the Department of Health and Human Services; and $84,520 from the Centres for Disease Control U.S. Agency for International Development[58].

Who and what does this nexus of Tides outfits fund

Most recently, Tides Foundation and Tides Centre were in the news for funding the violent anti-Isael and pro-Hamas protests in USA college campus'. [59][60]

In May 2024, a report by Politico[61] suggested that these protesting groups are being funded by organisations that are pushing for Biden's re-election as the President of the United States. The list of donors includes Rockefeller and Pritzker along with Soros.

Two of the organisations that have heavily funded the protests at Columbia University and other campuses are Jewish Voice for Peace and IfNotNow. Tides Foundation has backed these two organisations which are also funded by George Soros. David Rockefeller Jr, one of the top donors pushing Biden's re-election, is on the board of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Tides Foundation received millions from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. In the past five years, the Tides Foundation has given around USD 500,000 to Jewish Voice for Peace. Notably, the organisation describes itself as anti-Zionist.

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[58] https://www.discoverthenetworks.org/organizations/tides-foundation-and-tides-center/
[59] https://www.opindia.com/2024/05/pro-hamas-protests-us-varsities-funded-donors-joe-biden-george-soros-pritzker-rockefeller/
[60] https://www.opindia.com/2024/04/pro-palestinian-protests-george-soros-open-society-foundations-rockefeller-brothers-fund-anti-india-propaganda/
[61][61] https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/05/pro-palestinian-protests-columbia-university-funding-donors-00156135

Tides Foundation also provide financial support to Adalah Justice Project which was involved in the protests at Columbia University. It also supports Palestine Legal which is a legal defence fund to provide legal assistance to "student protesters" who mobilise "against genocide". Tides has been funding Palestine Legal since 2013 and Adalah Justice Project since 2016.[62]

In 2013 as well, there were reports that George Soros via Tides Centre had funded pro-Hamas groups.

As per a report by The New York Post, the Hungarian-American billionaire has funnelled over $15 million to pro-Hamas groups since 2016 through his Open Society Foundations (OSF).

About $13.7 million has been disbursed to a leftist advocacy group by the name of 'Tides', which funds non-profit organisations that justified Hamas' attacks on Israel and the subsequent killing of 1400 civilians.

According to The New York Post, members of the 'Adalah Justice Project' organised a rally in Byrant Park on 20th October this year and raised anti-Semitic slogans. One of them was seen waving a sign that read, "I do not condemn Hamas."

The pro-Hamas 'Byrant Park demonstration' was reportedly sponsored by 'Desis Rising Up and Moving', which received $30k in 2020 from the 'Tides Centre' (funded by George Soros' OSF)[63].

Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR)

In 2020, Tides Foundation gave a hefty donation for Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR).

According to the Form 990 of the IRS, Tides Foundation donated a hefty $266,000 which is upwards of Rs 2 crores.

HINDUS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INC. 4575 DEAN MARTIN DRIVE, SUITE 1604 LAS VEGAS, NV 89103	36-4952444	501(C)(3)	266,000.	0.		EQUITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

HfHR is notorious for its anti-India and anti-Hindu activity[64].

Investigating Info-warfare and Psy-war OSINT Disinfo Lab had conducted an investigation revealing that the 'Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR)' had been promoting the misleading narrative of 'Hindu Vs Hindutva'. The same organisation was also seen endorsing the 'Dismantling Global Hindutva' event.

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[62] https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/05/pro-palestinian-protests-columbia-university-funding-donors-00156135
[63] https://www.opindia.com/2023/10/george-soros-open-society-foundations-funding-pro-hamas-groups-united-states/
[64] https://www.opindia.com/2023/06/rahul-gandhi-think-tanks-hudson-university-sunita-vishwanath-iamc-george-soros-usa-tour/

As per Disinfo Lab, HfHR was formed in the year 2019 by two Islamist advocacy groups named Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and the Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI). Interestingly, the three organisations had formed another outfit called the Alliance for Justice and Accountability (AJA).

As per an article in The Hindu, the Alliance for Justice and Accountability had been at the forefront of leading demonstrations against the visit of PM Modi to Houston on September 22, 2019.

"The AJA comprises of Hindu, Muslim, Dalit, Sikh and Christian groups, among others. They include the Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR), a progressive Hindu group that opposes Hindutva; the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC); and the Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI)," the article read.

According to Disinfo Lab, the co-founder of Hindus for Human Rights, Sunita Vishwanath, also runs an organisation named 'Women for Afghan Women', which is funded by the Soros Open Society Foundation.

Interestingly, Sunita Vishwanath had tried to create hysteria and panic among Indian Muslims about the National Register of Citizens (NRC). "We are especially appalled by the most recent nightmare of the Kashmiri people, and the situation of 1.9 million people in India who are rendered stateless due to the imposition of the travesty called the National Register of Citizens", she had said. It is pertinent to note that even during this USA trip, Rahul Gandhi endorsed dangerous lies and propaganda against CAA and NRC, which led to anti-Hindu riots in 2020 in India.

HfHR's founding member Raju also heads EKTA. It is an associate organization of IAMC. The sole purpose was to have Hindus on the panel to project that the Hindus, in general, were against Hindutva. Interestingly, HfHR ran Facebook ads to promote previous USCIRF reports.

As per Disinfo Lab, HfHR was formed in the year 2019 by two Islamist advocacy groups named Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and the Organization for Minorities of India (OFMI). Interestingly, the three organisations had formed another outfit called the Alliance for Justice and Accountability (AJA). IAMC is of particular interest in this equation since the Islamist organisation is linked to terrorists and has also spread canards in India.

Rasheed Ahmed is the executive director of the Indian American Muslim Council, Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC), a radical Islamist group that has alleged links with banned terror organizations such as the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and has a long history of lobbying against India.

The IAMC is a Jamat-e-Islami-backed lobbyist organisation claiming to be a rights advocacy group. In the past, it had reportedly collaborated with and even paid money to various groups in the USA to get India blacklisted by the USCIRF (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom). A detailed report by Disinfo Lab has exposed its links with the terror outfit Jamat-e-Islami.

IAMC founder Shaik Ubaid and member Abdul Malik Mujahid have headed the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), the US front for Jamaat-e-Islami, Pakistan. According to DisInfo Lab, ICNA has established links with Pakistan-based terror groups like the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Rasheed Ahmed, who heads the IAMC currently, was the former executive director of the Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA). IMANA's Director of Operations is Zahid Mahmood, an ex-Pak Navy official.

IAMC had been caught spreading fake news and misinformation to further the Islamist cause in India. It had also been slapped with the UAPA in 2021.

IAMC had recently extended support to the wrestlers' protest and under that garb, had also whitewashed terrorist Yasin Malik, who could not potentially get the death penalty and has been convicted in a court of law for terrorism and Aysha Renna, who is a rabid Islamist and had participated in the anti-CAA violence of 2019 and 2020.

IAMC had also issued a statement condemning the disqualification of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi from Lok Sabha. In the statement, IAMC claimed that the defamation case against Gandhi was designed to harass and intimidate him. The organisation called his disqualification a "grave injustice and clear manifestation of the ruling party's desperation to maintain its hold on power, decimate the opposition, and silence dissenting voices." They then proceeded to demonise India using this lie, which we have seen Rahul Gandhi also do repeatedly, including in his current trip to the USA.

In fact, the US State Department released a contentious report, decrying the supposed lack of religious freedom in India based on falsified and misleading data sourced from Christian evangelist groups and radical Islamist outfits. The 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom has been published by the Office of International Religious Freedom under the State dept. It was then revealed that the report placed reliance on organisations such as the Federation of Indian Christian Organization in North America (FIACONA), United Christian Forum, Open Doors USA, Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), International Christian Concern and Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) to allege atrocities on religious minorities in the country.

Rahul Gandhi and Sunita Vishwanath have also worked in close quarters.

In 2023, Rahul Gandhi was on a 10-day US tour. In one of his engagements, he spoke at the Hudson University. An image of that talk emerged where Sunita Vishwanath was sitting next to him.

As mentioned in the brief above, the co-founder of Hindus for Human Rights, Sunita Vishwanath, who has now been pictured with Rahul Gandhi, also runs an organisation named 'Women for Afghan Women', which is funded by the Soros Open Society Foundation.

In January 2020, the American billionaire committed $1 billion to start a global university to "fight nationalists" and climate change, calling them twin challenges that threaten the survival of our civilization.

While speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Soros pledged to fund a university project to battle the erosion of civil society in a world increasingly ruled by "would-be and actual dictators" and climate change.

Soros also claimed that the "biggest and most frightening setback" was in India, as he accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "creating a Hindu nationalist state."

He had claimed, "The biggest and most frightening setback occurred in India where a democratically elected Narendra Modi is creating a Hindu nationalist state, imposing punitive measures on Kashmir, a semi-autonomous Muslim region, and threatening to deprive millions of Muslims of their citizenship".

George Soros, through his Open Society Foundation, which started its operations in India first in 1999 by offering scholarships and fellowships to pursue studies and research at Indian institutions, Soros has made great strides in creating disorder within India. In the name of running philanthropic activities, the left-wing international organisation led by Soros has begun to spread its tentacles across the country by his active support to anti-India elements operating inside India.

In the last few decades, George Soros has time and again has shown his desperation to wage war against the nationalist government in India through various networks funded by him comprising of NGOs, media, intelligentsia, etc.

Regarding his philanthropy work, Soros's OSF grasped a stronghold in India during the Obama regime. Ever since its entry into India, OSF has tried to interlope in the internal affairs of the nation through the vast and interconnected network of organisations funded by George Soros. These organisations play a vital role in manipulating the original narrative and take the help of the judiciary and media to hinder the national interest.

In 2008, the Soros Economic Development Fund (SEDF) joined hands with Omidyar Network, the Indian School of Business (ISB) and Google.org to launch their 17 million SONG fund to boost investment. Together with other networks, Soros has provided extensive grants to media running into millions to manipulate political narratives.

The Hungarian-American billionaire has also tried to use international institutions, which are funded by him, including Freedom House and V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute to tarnish the image of India at a global level.

George Soros had also commented on the Adani row post the Hindenburg report, which Rahul Gandhi had taken up vociferously to target the Modi government and even PM Modi personally, essentially revealing that the campaign against Adani could have been fuelled by George Soros himself, in an attempt to bring PM Modi down.

However, it does not end here, the ties between Congress and Soros go deeper, who is widely known for his anti-India views. On 31 October 2022, a person named Salil Shetty joined Rahul Gandhi in his Bharat Jodo Yatra in Harthikote in Karnataka. Salil Shetty is the global vice president of Open Society Foundations founded by George Soros. In its regular

update on the Yatra on its website, Congress wrote, "Yatris commenced their journey from Harthikote this morning. Walking alongside Shri Gandhi, among others, were two social and human rights activists. Salil Shetty, previous Secretary General of Amnesty International. Also, Nikhil Dey of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, an organisation known for its work in helping bring about the 'Right to Information Act'."

Before becoming VP of Open Society Foundation, Shetty was secretary general of Amnesty International, another left-wing organisation known for its anti-India activities. Shetty's involvement in India does not end with Bharat Jodo Yatra, earlier he was seen in several events against the Modi government.

From anti-CAA protests, which led to anti-Hindu Delhi riots (and the false propaganda used was again endorsed by Rahul Gandhi in his trip to USA this time) to farmers protest, which was hijacked by Khalistanis and also led to rampant violence, rapes and murders, Shetty was involved everywhere – the Soros man who walked with Rahul Gandhi.

It is now pertinent to note that there is clear evidence of ties between Wikipedia, Tides Foundation and the anti-India, anti-Hindu narrative being fuelled by HfHR and other related entities.

Every year, Tides Foundation sends hundreds and millions of dollars to India. It is pertinent to note that in the Form 990 that Tides files with the IRS, they are required to disclose specifics only of the US organisations that they donate to – which is why it was easier to locate HfHR in their list of donations.

They do not disclose specifically which organisations they donate to in India, however, their 990 does disclose that funds were indeed sent to India.

Here are examples of the funds sent to "South Asia" – including India – by Tides Foundation in 2020.

Schedule F (Form 990) TIDES FOUNDATION 51-0198509 Page **2**

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States. (Schedule F (Form 990), Part II, line 1)

1 (a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	200,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	QUALITY EDUCATION	37,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	75,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	7,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	10,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	100,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	71,200.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	20,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	75,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		

Schedule F (Form 990) TIDES FOUNDATION 51-0198509 Page **2**

Part II Continuation of Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations or Entities Outside the United States. (Schedule F (Form 990), Part II, line 1)

1 (a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	60,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	10,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	25,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	10,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	50,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT	25,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	10,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	20,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	100,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		

(a) Name of organization	(b) IRS code section and EIN (if applicable)	(c) Region	(d) Purpose of grant	(e) Amount of cash grant	(f) Manner of cash disbursement	(g) Amount of non-cash assistance	(h) Description of non-cash assistance	(i) Method of valuation (book, FMV, appraisal, other)
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	140,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	20,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	15,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	500,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	48,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES	20,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		
		SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA,	EQUALITY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT	100,000.	ELECTRONIC FUND/WIRE TRANSFER	0.		

Association for India's Development (AID)

There are some other organisations that Tides Foundation has donated to as well. For example, in 201, it donated to 'Association for India's Development' (AID)

| ASSOCIATION FOR INDIA'S DEVELOPMENT INC. - 5011 TECUMSEH STREET - COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740 | 04-3652609 | 501(C)(3) | | 16,667. | 0. | | | HEALTHY INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES |

A lot of the information about the human rights activities of AID seems to have been wiped clean.

However, some of the information remains. For example, a 2011, Times of India gave AID the "global impact award". In the article detaining the award, Times of India mentioned that AID had funded Arvind Kejriwal's NGO Parivartan and also campaigned extensively for the release of Binayak Sen[65].

Binayak Sen was convicted in 2010 on charges of sedition for his links to Naxals and sentenced to life imprisonment under sections 124A and 120(B) of the IPC. He was also found guilty under section 8(1) of the Chhattisgarh Special Public Security Act. He was given bail by the Supreme Court in 2011. He is associated with the PUCL, an organization we have reported on extensively, that is closely linked with the arrested 'Urban Naxals'.

Convicted for sedition and helping Naxalites to set up a network to fight the state of India, Binayak Sen was a Vice President of the PUCL even after his conviction by Raipur Sessions Court. The West Bengal unit of PUCL also published a book exonerating Sen of all his crimes and branded him a "victim of state atrocity".

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[65] https://web.archive.org/web/20111006001009/http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-09-20/india/30179711_1_aid-binayak-sen-funds

As it turns out, he was in the Committee for Police Reforms of the Aam Aadmi Party announced in 2014. Sen was in the committee for resolving the Naxalite question as well. Binayak Sen has links with the Congress party as well. Sen was named a member of the government's Planning Commission on health in 2011. Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Raman Singh, had slammed the decision to include Sen in the panel and wrote to the then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh deeming it "shocking and against all norms and propriety".

Despite his conviction for sedition and associations with the PUCL, which has extensive links to separatists across the country from Kashmir to Manipur through the coordinating organization CDRO, Binayak Sen continues to enjoy the support of the intellectual fraternity. He has even been invited to TISS to deliver a keynote address at an event[66].

Aman Public Charitable Trust – The NewsClick and Rajiv Gandhi Foundation China funding connection

Aman Public Charitable Trust on its website says, "AMAN envisages a pro-active role for civil society in the reduction of conflict and the mitigation of its effects. Its philosophy is based on the concepts of ahimsa and samrastha (non – violence and harmony). In the area of non – governmental civic initiatives, the rationale for AMAN arises from a recognition that man – made disasters must be added to those caused by natural calamity. While relief is imperative in the aftermath of a disaster, a purely reactive approach is insufficient, even in the context of natural disasters. All of Aman's networking, sensitisation, research and legal aid programmes aim at strengthening social institutions and resources for the anticipation and prevention of conflict, and at non-violent conflict resolution".

The "Partners" of AMAN as listed on their website is as follows[67]:

1. American Indian Foundation (AIF)
2. Rajiv Gandhi Foundation
3. Association for India's Development (Funded by TIDES Foundation – as detailed in the previous section)
4. European Commission for Humanitarian Organisations
5. Ford Foundation
6. HIVOS
7. OXFAM
8. Public Affairs Centre
9. The Hunger Project
10. TIDES Foundation
11. TATA Relief Committee
12. Charities Aid Foundation
13. Habitat For Humanity
14. Give2Asia
15. NASSCOM Foundation
16. National Foundation For India

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[66] https://www.opindia.com/2019/07/convicted-naxalite-binayak-sen-signs-rising-intolerance-letter-to-pm-modi-calls-self-peace-loving-proud-indian/
[67] https://www.amanpanchayat.org/about/donors-partners/

17. International Media Support (IMS)
18. National Foundation for India (NFI)

The Chairman of AMAN is Dilip Simeon. According to AMAN, "Dilip Simeon is the chairperson of the AMAN and also a senior fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in Delhi. Earlier he taught history at the University of Delhi. He has been active in democratic and anti-communal mobilisation for past many years and was a founding member of the Sampradayikta Virodhi Andolan (Struggle Against Communalism). He has published extensively in leading journals and newspaper and had also authored a book titled The Politics of Labour Under Late Colonialism: Workers, Trade Unions and the State in Chota Nagpur, 1928-1939, Manohar Publications"[68].

Dilip Simeon was one of the people named in the Delhi Police FIR against NewsClick, accused of attempting to sabotage the 2019 General Elections in India.

Prabir Purkayastha, one of the main accused in the NewsClick-China funding case, had started an organisation called People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS). The organisation went defunct, but before it did, it attempted to interfere in 2019 elections. In the FIR filed in the case by the police, Dilip Simeon was also named as an accused.

The Special Cell's FIR against Prabir Purkayastha included a detailed list of assertions, including attempts to portray Arunachal Pradesh and Kashmir as "not parts of India," attacks on the Indian government's efforts to combat Covid, financial support for the farmers' agitation, and "putting up a spirited defence of legal cases" against Chinese telecom companies like Vivo and Xiaomi.

Funds to disseminate propaganda favouring China have been reportedly received by NewsClick. The UAPA and the anti-terror law have been invoked against the news company. NewsClick is charged with obtaining more than Rs 80 crore from Chinese companies.

According to the FIR, the news outlet accepted funding from Chinese organizations with the intention of "disrupting the sovereignty of India" and inciting animosity toward the nation. Earlier, a Delhi court gave police a further 10 days to finish their probe into NewsClick founder and editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha. Amit Chakravarty, the chief of NewsClick's HR department and former accuser turned approver, has extended his judicial custody for an additional ten days.

According to police, raids were carried out in October 2023 at 88 sites in Delhi and seven other states against the suspects listed in the FIR and those whose names came up during data analysis. In addition, Purkayastha is accused of working with the People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) to undermine the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Purkayastha and Chakraborty were arrested after a full day of searches at more than fifty locations associated with the news portal, its staff and its contributors. The police reported that 46 "suspects" had had their "digital devices" confiscated and were being questioned

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[68] https://www.amanpanchayat.org/about/trustees-partners/

following the searches, which took place around Mumbai and the National Capital Region. The Delhi office of the news outlet was also sealed by the police.

"Foreign funds in crores have been infused illegally in India by Indian and foreign entities inimical to India in pursuance of a conspiracy to disrupt sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, to cause disaffection against India and to threaten the unity, integrity, security of India," the Special Cell established in its remand application, citing "secret inputs."

Arunachal Pradesh was depicted as a disputed area on a new map of India, and the accused were "in direct touch with each other" and "discussing how to create a new map of India without Kashmir," according to the remand application. They had also received "more than Rs 115 crore" in the "guise of foreign funds" for this purpose. Chakraborty has become an approver in the case, after Purkayastha and he, both have been in judicial confinement since November.

The People's Dispatch Portal, owned and maintained by M/S PPK Newsclick Studio Private Limited has been used for purposefully peddling false narratives through paid news in lieu of crores of rupees of illegally routed foreign funds as part of a conspiracy, based on Delhi Police's Special Cell's FIR against NewsClick's founder and Editor-in-Chief, Prabir Purkayastha[69].

Interestingly, while Dilip Simeon is also connected to the Newsclick-China funding case – the chairman of AMAN – funded by Tides, Ford Foundation etc – another donor of AMAN – Rajiv Gandhi Foundation also took money from China.

The Chinese government had donated Rs 10 lakh to the 'Rajiv Gandhi Foundation' in 2006 to give 'financial assistance' to its charities. In addition, according to a document available on Chinese Embassy in India website, the then Chinese Ambassador to India to India Sun Yuxi had donated Rs 10 lakhs to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, which has links to the Congress party and is run by Congress leaders.

A perusal of the Annual Statements of Rajiv Gandhi Foundation revealed that the Chinese government had not only donated to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation in the year 2006 but subsequent years as well. It is pertinent to note that Sonia Gandhi is the Chairperson of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation and since the year 2005, of which documents have been reviewed, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were the trustees.

One sinister aspect that emerged is that even in 2005-2006, it was not just the Embassy of China that had donated to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, but also the Chinese government itself.

In the Annual Report of the Foundation for the year 2006-2007 as well, the People's Republic of China is listed as a donor. Further, in the year 2007-2008, the Chinese Government was

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[69] https://www.opindia.com/2024/05/newsclick-chargesheet-2016-email-prabir-purkayastha-china-neville-roy-singham-end-democracy/

listed as a donor as well. After well over Rs 1 crore received by Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, the foundation launched a study focussed on the interests of China[70].

It is also pertinent to note that several other organisations that donate to AMAN have links to TIDES Foundation including Ford Foundation.

Alliance India – Chaired by Dr SY Qureshi

Alliance India, according to its website, is a "not-for-profit Indian organisation established in 1999, India HIV/AIDS Alliance is overseen by a six-member board that defines our direction and ensures our policies and strategies reflect our mission and values. Board members come from all over India and are chosen for their relevant experience and expertise in a range of disciplines including HIV, sexual & reproductive health, human rights, governance, management, finance, resource mobilisation, research, advocacy and communications. Our board meets three times each year".

The Board Chair of Alliance India is Dr SY Quraishi – the former Election Commissioner of India.

Dr SY Quraishi has, in the past, expressed several opinions which go against the interest of India and perpetuate Islamism. He has earlier stated that only a Maulana has the right to pass judgement on the question of whether Hijab should be worn by Muslim women. He has also wished that PM Modi would get COVID[71] and downplayed the genocide and ethnic cleansing of Kashmiri Pandits by Muslims in Kashmir[72].

Alliance India has in the past worked with TIDES Foundation. On the Alliance India website, their association with Tides Foundation is clearly indicated[73].

The Adani attacks – Links to Tides, Soros, Congress, Delhi Riots and NewsClick-China funding case

The saga starts in 2010 with Adani's Carmichael coal mine in Australia. Seven years later, Bob Brown, eventually the founder of Adani Watch, launched a coalition of 13 environmental groups, called Stop Adani Alliance, opposed to Indian billionaire's Carmichael coal mine, the Guardian reported. According to the British daily, Brown had teamed up with Australian Conservation Foundation, 350.org.

Adani Watch has spread misinformation on numerous occasions not just against Adani but also India[74].

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[70] https://www.opindia.com/2020/06/rajiv-gandhi-foundation-sonia-gandhi-rahul-gandhi-took-over-rs-one-crore-from-govt-of-china-full-details/

[71] https://www.opindia.com/2020/03/quraishi-retweet-modi-coronavirus-infection-islamist/

[72] https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/former-chief-election-commissioner-sy-quraishi-love-jihad-hijab-yogi-adityanath-kashmiri-pandits/

[73] https://allianceindia.org/women-sex-work-community-heart-alliance-indias-covid-19-response/

[74] https://www.opindia.com/2023/04/adani-watch-australian-ngo-backed-portal-actively-engaging-in-propaganda-meddling-in-indian-politics/

For example, 'Adani Watch' falsely claimed that a Chinese company, supposedly associated with Indian industrialist Gautam Adani, is building critical infrastructure projects in the country. The portal mistook a Taiwanese person named Chang Chien-Ting for a Chinese national and went on to claim that his alleged company (PMC Projects (India) Pvt Ltd) was constructing ports, electricity lines and railway tracks in India.

The disinformation was then further amplified by Congress scion Rahul Gandhi to attack Adani and cast aspersions on the integrity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Adani Watch's vicious articles are not just limited to the Indian industrialist but often extend into the political arena.

Interestingly, Bob Brown Foundation endorses even the propaganda-laden documentary by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Prime Minister Narendra. This is despite the fact that it has nothing to do with Gautam Adani or the environment. It had also made a hue and cry about Left YouTuber Ravish Kumar quitting NDTV after Adani took over the channel.

In March 2022, the Bob Brown Foundation was also seen batting for Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra after she had submitted a formal complaint to SEBI against the Adani Group.

Most of the misleading pieces on the propaganda portal are written by leftist 'journalist' Ravi Nair, who also happened to write a malicious article about a Chinese company building India's key infrastructure projects.

In its 2017 annual report, the 'Stop Adani' group thanked former Australian Greens politician Bob Brown for conducting key meetings and speaking at events such as the 'Stop Adani summit' in Sydney and a 'Stop Adani rally' in Hobart.

Through his Foundation, he also manufactured and distributed 5,000 Stop Adani bumper stickers across Australia free of charge.

The Stop Adani group had shared politically motivated tweets by the likes of 'activist' Prashant Bhushan, The Wire, Hindenburg Research, dubious fact-checker Mohammed Zubair and Congress leader Jairam Ramesh.

In September 2020, an academic named Dr Jennifer Sanger published a flawed scientific paper on Australian bushfires, which she eventually had to retract. It later came to light that she was a campaigner for Bob Brown Foundation.

In April 2021, Tasmanian Resources Minister Guy Barnett wrote to the Assistant Treasurer of Australia, Michael Sukkar, urging him to de-recognise Bob Brown Foundation as a 'charity.'

The Foundation had reportedly violated the Australian Charities Act of 2013 by asking people to 'vote the Greens', a political party which Bob Brown represented between 1989 and 2012. In November last year, he was arrested for protesting against logging in Tasmania.

"In this age of rapid destruction of the biosphere, attended by cynicism and pessimism, our foundation will use ecological reality and optimism to promote real environmental wins," reads the mission statement.

The targeting of the Adani group, alongside the BJP government at the Centre, clearly shows that the Australia-based Foundation is working towards objectives that are a far cry from its mission statement.

Interestingly, the nexus has a connection with the Tides Foundation and several other dubious foundations that are known to be not only associated with Wikimedia Foundation but also the larger anti-India narrative.

Ford Foundation, Open Society, Tides Foundation, Oak Foundation and other foundations regularly feature in 350.org's list of donors and patrons[75].

350.org's website lists its allies, which include Amnesty International; the College Democrats of America; Greenpeace; Oxfam; Sierra Club; the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for the Earth; anti-vaccine advocate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s Waterkeeper Alliance; and the World Carfree Network, which opposes the use and sale of private motor vehicles.

Pertinently, George Soros, who funds 350.org along with the Tides Foundation had also used the discredited Hindenburg report to attack the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi. Further, a second attack against Adani after the Hindenburg fiasco was planted by OCCRP – which also had George Soros' tentacles.

Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) had also attacked Adani and the antecedents of the group were revealed to be questionable.

Founded in 2006, OCCRP claims to have a network of journalists across 6 continents who specialise in reporting on organised crime and corruption.

While it might seem like an independent, non-partisan organisation, OCCRP is funded by the likes of George Soros' Open Society Foundations (OSF), the Ford Foundation and the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation.

It came to light that the OSF gave a grant of $8,00,000 (~ ₹6.61 crores) to the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project for 'strengthening' the organisation's cross-border reporting and increasing the wider impact.

found the 2019 annual report [pdf] of OCCRP, which made it clear that the funds provided by George Soros' Open Society Foundations were being used for establishing ties of the Global Anti-Corruption Consortium (GACC) to civil society across various countries.

Page 24 of the report stated, "In the next year, the GACC will go farther to advance legal action and build ties with civil society partners at the global and local levels, growing its

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[75] https://350.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FY2022_AnnualReport-compressed.pdf

reach and impact. We are grateful to our partners who have supported this unique partnership: the governments of Argentina, Australia, Denmark, Norway, and the United States and the Open Society Foundations"

Besides the Open Society Foundations, the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project also receives funding from the Ford Foundation.

In 2015, the Government of Gujarat, while investigating Teesta Setalvad's embezzlement case, came across funding by the Ford Foundation to her entities. It was found that her trust had violated FCRA norms.

Sabrang Communication and Publishing Pvt Limited, with which Teesta is associated, received $ 2.9 lakh from the Ford Foundation as a grant to "address communalism, caste-based discrimination in India, including media strategies".

Later, a letter was issued by the Gujarat Police, following which the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) expressed its intention to probe the activities of the Ford Foundation. This probably set off a chain of events, most of which happened in the background and were later revealed by Wikileaks.

Ford Foundation claimed that it was embroiled in a controversy over its funding to Sabrang Trusts managed by Teesta Setalvad. The letter titled Ford Foundation in India: Notes to John Podesta dated May 26, 2015, also mentioned their funding to Arvind Kejriwal's NGO before he got into politics as a possible reason for the Government's action.

This was confirmed by none other than one of the leading luminaries of the Indian left-wing firmament, Ms Arundhati Roy. In an interview with Sagarika Ghose, Roy talked about one of the articles that she wrote for The Hindu in which she alleged that the NGOs of Kejriwal and Sisodia had received over $400,000 from the Ford Foundation in three years.

Roy claimed that the group of ten people who were the top 'management' of the movement had well-funded NGOs. She said that three core members of the team had won the Magsaysay Award which is also funded by the Ford Foundation.

As interesting as it might sound, NDTV news anchor Ravish Kumar also coincidentally received the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2019. Last year, whistle-blower emails quoted by Christopher Brunet on his Substack 'KarlStack' revealed that The Ford Foundation is a cesspool of intolerant and bigoted left-wing extremists.

Interestingly, OCCRP also has a NewsClick-China funding connection.

During research, it was found that South Asian (Regional) Editor of OCCRP, Anand Mangnale, was a partnerships and strategy consultant at the contentious left-propaganda outlet NewsClick

As per the information posted on the website of OCCRP, he has been working with the organisation since 2021. "Anand has worked on several investigations exposing corporate

and government corruption, abuse of power, and government misinformation and fake news campaigns," the profile bio read.

"Anand was a partnerships and strategy consultant with online news platform Newsclick.in, focusing on exposing corporate fraud and corruption." it further added.

Anand Mangnale wrote 15 articles for NewsClick between August 2017 and March 2020.

In the Newsclick-China funding chargesheet, Special Cell mentions that it was a man called Anand Mangnale who handed Chinese money to Sharjeel Imam for Delhi Riots. Further, that Mangnale was a part of the DPSG group along with Sharjeel Imam at the behest of NewsClick. It was reported in 2020 that Mangnale is connected to Congress and was actively fundraising for them while being a part of DPSG and working for NewsClick. The full investigation was conducted by OpIndia and can be read from the referenced link[76].

What it means

Tides Foundation is an organisation which funds several Left organisations, NGOs and causes. It is pertinent to note that recently, it was revealed that it was indeed the Tides Foundation, largely espoused by George Soros, which was funding the pro-Hamas protests in US Universities. As it turns out, Tides Foundation is also funding extremely nefarious elements in India, including individuals and NGOs. As we have seen, Tides Foundation has links to Islamist and Naxal supporting outfits. In the IRS 990 forms, US entities are not required to reveal the exact NGOs that they fund overseas. They are only required to reveal the foundations, NGOs and organisations they fund in the US. Given that these nefarious organisations being funded by Tides Foundation were found only on a cursory search, it is anybody's guess which other anti-India entities they must be funding in India. Further, since Tides Foundation works through several donor-directed funds, it would almost be impossible to know if Wikimedia Foundation and/or Google are funding these organisations through Tides Foundation. However, what we do know is that Google and Wikimedia Foundation are deeply aware of the kind of activities that Tides Foundation funds and are intricately associated with them. Further, the kind of organisations funded by Wikimedia Foundation also leaves no room for doubt that the interest of Wikimedia Foundation and Tides Foundation aligns as far as the nature of cause they fund.

[76] https://www.opindia.com/2024/05/newsclick-delhi-riots-anand-mangnale-money-sharjeel-imam-connected-to-congress-soros-exclusive/

Other notorious organisations that Wikimedia Foundations runs –
Anti-India, Anti-Hindu and beyond

Wikipedia donates to several other organisations which furthers the Left agenda. For the purpose of this report, we would list some organisations which show the direction in which Wikimedia Foundation funds are used, and analyse some of the organisations, the work of which impact India specifically.

Art+Feminism Inc

Over the years, the Wikimedia Foundation has paid copious amounts of money to Art+Feminism Inc.

According to their IRS filings, Wikimedia Foundation paid:

1. 2022: $381,685
2. 2021: $337,527
3. 2020: $ 44,982
4. 2019: $ 606,000

Art+Feminism claims that it builds a community of activists that is committed to closing information gaps related to gender, feminism, and the arts, beginning with Wikipedia.

On its website, Art+Feminism says, "Our materials are informed by critical pedagogy, intersectional feminist organizing principles, and designed for all experience levels and gender identities and expressions".

The organisation was founded in 2014 by Siân Evans, McKensie Mack, Michael Mandiberg, and Jacqueline Mabey[77].

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[77]

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/73/Art%2BFeminism_founders_Siân_Evans%2C_
Mackenzie_Mack%2C_Michael_Mandiberg%2C_Jacqueline_Mabey_%2847222382612%29.jpg/440px-
Art%2BFeminism_founders_Siân_Evans%2C_Mackenzie_Mack%2C_Michael_Mandiberg%2C_Jacqueline_Mabe
y_%2847222382612%29.jpg

According to several articles, the need for Art+Feminism was felt when there was criticism about the non-representation of women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community as far as the articles are concerned and editors are concerned.

A 2015 WIRED article[78] says, *"About 90 percent of Wikipedia editors are men, an issue so well documented it has its own Wikipedia page. The issue has roiled the Wikimedia Foundation for years. It's studied the problem and set goals for bridging the gap, goals even Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales says the Foundation has "completely failed" to meet. The lack of diversity is so deeply rooted that the National Science Foundation commissioned two studies of why this bias exists. The problem is, because Wikipedia is run—in theory at least—by and for the people, only the people can correct the imbalance. A growing group of socially minded Wikipedia editors are taking up the cause with a slew of "edit-a-thons" that aim to enhance the coverage of women, minorities, the LGBTQ community, and other underrepresented groups on Wikipedia"*

The article further said, after talking about Arts+Feminism, *"Meanwhile, the Wikimedia Foundation is increasingly doling out grants to close the gaps not only between genders, but between races and nationalities as well. Over the last year, 124 of the 236 grants the foundation made went to the so-called "Global South," which includes areas like Africa, Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East. This week, the foundation also launched its Women's Campaign, which will donate $250,000 to projects that seek to address the gender gap. The foundation takes pains to point out it doesn't directly edit Wikipedia itself. But it's willing to*

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[78] https://www.wired.com/2015/03/wikipedia-sexism/

put up the money to see that Wikipedia more accurately represents the whole world, and everyone in it".

The Wikipedia page on Art+Feminism says that in 2015, the edit-a-thon event by the organisation was held in several countries outside of the USA. The page says, "Outside the United States, the 2015 event received media coverage at locations including Australia, Canada, Cambodia, **India**, New Zealand, and Scotland. Events continuously grow and take place in countries in various continents all over the world. Inside the United States, the event received media coverage at the flagship location in New York, and also in California, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia".

The 2015 event in India sponsored by Art+Feminism was held in Bangalore[79].

Art+Feminism sends funds to India regularly, as evidenced by their IRS documents.

In 2022, they spent $13,411 in South Asia, including India and in In 2021 it was $ 2,710[80].

SOUTH ASIA - AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA, MALDIVES, NEPAL,	0	1	PROGRAM SERVICES AND GRANTMAKING	EDIT-A-THONS	13,411

While the amount certainly is not much, it is also true that the purpose of the spending was "Edit-a-thons" for Wikipedia and therefore, it is certainly events where the funds are coming from Wikimedia Foundation – this – without Wikimedia having any presence in India and no adherence to local laws (as we will see in a separate section of the paper).

In India, The Heritage Lab is the India partner of Art+Feminism according to the founder Medhavi Gandhi's interview to The Indian Express[81].

On their website, they say[82], "The Heritage Lab has been spearheading the campaign in India since 2017 with a two-fold aim of improving public awareness about women artists of India and increasing female editorship on Wikipedia. To participate, you can also send us articles on women in art, history, culture - who have been under-represented online".

Art+Feminism, Heritage Lab and Feminism in India have also collaborated regularly in India[83][84]. These have been events for Wikipedia Edit-a-Thons and therefore, directly linked with the work of Wikipedia by an organisation like Art+Feminism which is directly funded by Wikimedia Foundation.

In 2021, Art+Feminism joined hands with National Institute of Design for an event which would entail edit-a-thon, panel discussions etc. The banner of the event itself had the logos of not only Art+Feminism but also Wikimedia Foundation.

[79] https://www.deccanherald.com/content/464071/edit-thon-women-bridge-wikimedia.html
[80] https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/832919353
[81] https://archive.ph/Tge7a
[82] https://www.theheritagelab.in/artandfeminism-india/
[83] https://x.com/FeminismInIndia/status/1114425940937830400
[84] https://x.com/FeminismInIndia/status/968067025657573377

> **Art+Feminism**
> @artandfeminism
>
> Join @nid_india for a series of events in March and April around their first #ArtAndFeminism Edit-a-thon! Editors will contribute to English, Hindi and Gujarati and open to other South Asian languages. Learn more about these hybrid events: artandfeminism.org/edit_a_thon/wo…
> #NowEditingAF
>
> *meet ups * panel discussions * edit-a-thons * meet ups * panel discussion*
>
> # NID's first ever Edit-a-thon
>
> 90% of Wikipedia contributors identified as male, 8.8% as female, and 1% as other.
>
> Art+Feminism is an international community that strives to close the information gap about gender, feminism, and the arts on the internet. 'Women in Design at NID' aims to create and improve Wikipedia articles about women in design.
>
> **Topic**
>
> *Women in Design at NID*
>
> **Lineup**
>
> - Meet up 06.03.2021
> - Edit-a-thon 19.03.2021 to 20.03.2021
> - Panel Discussion 27.04.2021
> - Edit-a-thon 30.04.2021 to 01.05.2021
>
> *Food, beverages, transportation, and surprise gifts & goodies for editors and volunteers!*
>
> NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
>
> OPEN TO STUDENTS, DESIGNERS AND ALL WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE! WOMEN , TRANS AND NON BINARY FOLKS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN!!
>
> WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION   ART + FEMINISM   राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN   Hosted by : NID ARCHIVES /KMC
>
> *Source: Art+Feminism Wikipedia Page https://artandfeminism.org   Poster Design by Ritika Jathar and Geethika Nair.*
>
> *panel discussions * edit-a-thons * meet ups * panel discussions * edit-a-*
>
> ALT
>
> 11:25 PM · Mar 12, 2021

On 8th February 2020, days before the Delhi anti-Hindu riots engulfed the national capital, Art+Feminism shared a post on Twitter (now X)[85] talking about how the police had

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[85] https://x.com/artandfeminism/status/1225886962248187905

'removed' an art display about the protests at Shaheen Bagh and beyond, against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

On the 7th of February, on the last day of the Indian Art Fair in Delhi, the police had responded[86] to a PCR call about inflammatory posters at the fair. The paintings displayed belonged to one Yaman Navlakha and Gargi Chandola. The booth was of the Italian Embassy Culture Centre by Post-Art Project.

The painting had Burqa clad women resembling those from Shaheen Bagh and also, the anti-Hindu slogans of "Hum Dekhenge" by Faiz Ahmed Faiz.

The article[87] shared by Art+Feminism peddled complete fabrications about what the CAA was about. It read, "The CAA would force all residents to prove their citizenship. The act also offers a pathway to citizenship for refugees persecuted for their religion—unless they are Muslim. Opponents of the legislation contend that the CAA will strip Muslims of their citizenship if they are unable to provide sufficient proof of identity".

As is known, the CAA is a legislation that offers expedited citizenship to those religious minorities from neighbouring Islamic nations, who had already taken refuge in India before December 31, 2014. The fake news like the one furthered by Art+Feminism, directly funded by Wikimedia Foundation, is precisely what led to moths of violence, culminating into the anti-Hindu Riots in Delhi on the 23rd of February.

'Feminism in India', which Art+Feminism, The Heritage Lab and Wikimedia by default had collaborated with is also a platform that had glorified the violent protestors fuelled by fake news and religious fervour during the anti-CAA violence and protests in 2019 and 2020[88].

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[86] https://www.outlookindia.com/national/india-news-india-art-fair-painting-that-stirred-row-missing-artists-cry-foul-news-346850

[87] https://news.artnet.com/market/india-art-fair-2020-political-tension-1768323

[88] https://feminisminindia.com/tag/citizenship-amendment-act/

In the past, 'Feminism in India' has demonised Hinduism and the festivals of the faith[89].
It is important to bear in mind that Wikimedia Foundation and Wikipedia have no office or presence in India. Further, they have refused to adhere to Indian laws as we would explore later in this report. Essentially, Wikimedia Foundation is funding organisations that have in turn collaborated with organisations in India – which regularly spread fake news and rhetoric that demonises India, Hindus and spreads disaffection through their work and reportage. All of this, while Wikimedia Foundation claims that it is merely facilitating collaborative endeavours by 'volunteers' who contribute to the content out of the goodness of their heart and faith in free knowledge.

'Whose Knowledge?'

"Whose Knowledge?" is an NGO which has received substantial funding from Wikimedia Foundation. In 2022, Wikimedia Foundation donated $196,434 and $168,878 in 2021. That is $365312 is 2 years – amounting to somewhere in the ballpark of Rs 30 crores. The NGOs proposal for 2024 to Wikimedia Foundation is $788979, to be utilised over 3 years (2024-2026)[90].

According to the Wikipedia Foundation return, Whose Knowledge is registered as an NGO in the USA.

According to ProPublica, their revenue in 2022 was $906k, their expenses were $1.02M and they have $483k in assets[91].

Apart from Wikimedia Foundation, other donors to Whose Knowledge include George Soros' Open Society Foundation[92].

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[89] https://www.opindia.com/2018/03/feminism-in-india-website-twitter-handle-spreads-hindupbhobia-islamic-propaganda/

[90] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Programs/Wikimedia_Community_Fund/General_Support_Fund/Whose_Knowledge%3F_2024-2026

[91] https://projects.propublica.org/nonprofits/organizations/871925489

[92] https://whoseknowledge.org/support/

Our Funders So Far

Mellon Foundation

WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS

SHUTTLEWORTH FOUNDATION

GLOBAL FUND FOR WOM=N
Champions for Equality.

mozilla FOUNDATION

WILLIAM + FLORA Hewlett Foundation

kindle project

'Whose Knowledge' essentially furthers the same tropes such as Art+Feminism – which talks about inclusive representation of marginalised communities on Wikipedia.

According to their About Us section, "Whose Knowledge? is a radical re-imagining and re-design of the internet, so that together we build and defend an internet of, for and by all".

They further say:

> *"We are a global campaign to centre the knowledge of marginalized communities (the majority of the world) on the internet.*
>
> *3/4 of the online population of the world today comes from the global South – from Asia, from Africa, from Latin America. And nearly half all women are online. Yet most public knowledge online has so far been written by white men from Europe and North America.*
>
> *To address this, we work particularly with women, people of colour, LGBTQI communities, indigenous peoples and others from the global South to build and represent more of all of our own knowledge online".*

According to their Wikipedia page, "The Whose Knowledge? campaign was conceived by Anasuya Sengupta over the course of 2015, and co-founded with Siko Bouterse in March 2016. Adele Vrana joined us in November 2017. We bring a unique combination of experiences, skills and approaches to this work: critical feminist scholarship and human rights activism, intersecting with a deep knowledge of internet technologies and online community organizing. Siko has worked with global online communities for over 10 years with an intent to build bridges and empower people to share knowledge.

Anasuya has worked in India, the global South, and internationally for over 20 years, leading initiatives to amplify voices 'from the margins'. Adele has led business development and partnerships initiatives to help build a more plural and diverse communities in her native country of Brazil and globally. We met at the Wikimedia Foundation, where we have been supporting individuals and groups aiming to address systemic bias on Wikimedia projects for five years".

We consider this information authentic because according to Affiliations Committee page[93] on Wikipedia itself, this information was submitted by Whose Knowledge itself. The Affiliations Committee noted on their page that "Whose Knowledge? has submitted an application for recognition, which has been reviewed by the Affiliations Committee" and that "The scope of the group, which can be found on their meta page, is "to correct the skewed representations of knowledge on Wikimedia projects as well as the wider internet."

The Affiliations Committee advises and makes recommendations regarding the recognition and existence of Wikimedia movement affiliates[94], and therefore, we can conclude that Whose Knowledge is an official affiliate of Wikimedia Foundation.

The reason why this submission for Wikipedia page by Whose Knowledge itself was accepted was because it was aligned with Wikimedia, furthers the cause of Wikimedia and Plans for activities or efforts to advance Wikimedia projects.

Therefore, it is safe to conclude that Whose Knowledge came into existence specifically by and for the Wikimedia Foundation supposedly to ensure equal representation on Wikipedia.

The Wikipedia page further says, "In September 2016, the Whose Knowledge? campaign was publicly launched at the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)'s 2016 Forum in Brazil with 5 Wikimujeres (WikiWomen) and nearly 2000 women's human rights defenders. The Wikimujeres delegation was supported by the Wikimedia Foundation. In March 2017, it launched the #VisibleWikiWomen challenge, led by coordinators Mariana Fossati and May Hachem, to bring notable women's pictures onto Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia".

According to the Whose Knowledge page, "Anasuya Sengupta is Co-Director and co-founder of Whose Knowledge?, a global multilingual campaign to centre the knowledges of marginalised communities (the minoritised majority of the world) online. She has led initiatives across the global South, and internationally for over 25 years, to collectively create feminist presents and futures of love, justice, and liberation. She is committed to unpacking issues of power, privilege, and access, including her own as an anti-caste savarna woman. She is a co-founder and advisor to Numun Fund (the first feminist tech fund for and from the Global South), advisor to the Flickr Foundation, the former Chief Grantmaking Officer at the Wikimedia Foundation, and the former Regional Program Director at the Global Fund for Women".

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[93] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Affiliations_Committee/Resolutions/Whose_Knowledge%3F
[94] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Affiliations_Committee

From this information, it is evident that:

1. Whose Knowledge came into existence specifically for the purpose of furthering Wikimedia Foundation interest.
2. It was founded by Anasuya Sengupta.
3. Sengupta was former Chief Grantmaking Officer at the Wikimedia Foundation.
4. She is a caste activist and she identifies herself as an "anti-caste savarna woman".

Anusuya Sengupta regularly feeds into the divisive caste narrative and spreading vitriol against Hindus. She also regularly furthers the narrative that Muslims and Dalits are under attack in India by the Hindu majority population – a narrative that has been debunked summarily.

For example, in September 2023, Sengupta was a strong proponent for the SB403 Bill, which would essentially demonise Hindus who belonged to 'general castes'.

SB403 was a so-called anti-caste discrimination legislation which was making its way through Californian state legislature. California Senator Aisha Wahab had tabled the bill. The dubious organisation Equality Labs is one of the bill's biggest supporters. The bill was completely based on the Cisco caste case. Although the case fell flat, the SB403 bill was still supported by dubious elements. Equality Labs was the primary supporter of the Hinduphobic bill. The founder and Executive Director of Equality Labs, Thenmozhi Soundararajan has made insidious comments against Hindus at large on various occasions – some of the comments include: Upper-caste Indians are Nazis', 'Hindu scriptures do nothing but bring violence and pain', 'Hindu texts give spiritual foundation for slavery'. HAF's Suhag Shukla wrote in her article, "While Wahab and her co-sponsor, California Assembly member Jasmeet Bains,

continued to claim the worthy goal of non-discrimination, the Assembly Judiciary Committee's analysis exposed the bill's discriminatory intent"[95].

Anusuya Sengupta was a strong votary of the discriminatory SB403. In September 2023, she had tweeted, "A critical reminder of how many working class caregivers are from caste oppressed communities. They deserve an end to violence and bigotry. Please make history, sign #SB403 Gov. @GavinNewsom. Thank you for the solidarity @aijenpoo @HillaryClinton @ChelseaClinton @darrenwalker 💙"[96].

In another tweet, she said, "Appalled @GavinNewsom that you vetoed #SB403, essentially telling caste oppressed communities in CA and beyond that their lives, their labour, their dignity, matter less to you than the power of the privileged. But we know the arc of the moral universe will bend towards justice"[97].

She had also sat for a 24 hour hunger strike demanding that SB403 be passed[98].

While it was proven that the Leicester violence of 2022 was against Hindus by Islamist mobs, she had continued to blame Hindus, calling them fascists[99]

In 2022, after former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma mentioned certain Islamic Hadiths on a television channel news debate, Islamists in India had gone on a rampage – beheading at least 6 people for supporting Nupur Sharma. Sharma got death, beheading and gang-rape threats from across the globe and to date, Sharma has not been able to leave her house without a security cover. Several Maulanas and Islamists have been arrested, crossing over from Pakistan to murder Sharma. Sengupta had turned the incident to claim that the Islamists demanding "action" against Nupur Sharma were the actual victims. She had tweeted in support of a Jamaat-e-Islami Islamist who had organised murderous protests against Nupur Sharma in Uttar Pradesh. Sengupta went on to call Hindus 'supremacists'[100].

She had also, in 2023, shared articles essentially making a case for the world, especially the US, to sever ties with India due to the mythical genocide of Hindus at the hands of "Hindu fascists"[101].

From her social media activity, it is evident that Sengupta subscribes to the anti-Hindu and anti-India tropes that are often furthered in the western media and the Islamists.

Pertinently, Whose Knowledge, funded by George Soros and Wikimedia Foundation among others and started specifically by the former chief grant making officer of Wikimedia Foundation to further the interest of Wikimedia, partners with Equality Labs officially[102].

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[95] https://theprint.in/opinion/sb-403-is-dead-but-hate-against-hindu-americans-has-only-begun/1806938/
[96] https://x.com/Anasuyashh/status/1704189464971510047
[97] https://x.com/Anasuyashh/status/1710776976003227857
[98] https://x.com/Anasuyashh/status/1699532206199226531
[99] https://x.com/Anasuyashh/status/1572497474383757312
[100] https://x.com/Anasuyashh/status/1538452752715620352
[101] https://x.com/Anasuyashh/status/1582286014290096128
[102] https://whoseknowledge.org

Our Partners and Friends

Equality Labs

Equality Labs is a radical Left organisation in the US that has actively worked against Hindus for several years. Disinfo Lab published a detailed report on 'Operation Tupac' where they decoded the various organisation that were working on concert to exploit the fault lines in India. Equality Labs found a detailed mention in it.

The report says[103]:

> One key organization that operates on the Caste Faultline in the US is Equality Labs, which was formed in 2016 as an Ambedkarite South Asian power-building organization in the US with the motive to combat 'Caste Discrimination'. Equality Labs was founded by Thenmozhi Soundararajan, a Dalit techie, artist, and activist born and brought up in the US.
>
> While the organization claims to be progressive and aims to combat caste discrimination, it also strives hard to succinctly paint India as a nation with an endemic caste problem and widespread oppression, a colonial-era narrative widely purported by the British to justify their imposition of Western value systems.
>
> Another co-founder of Equality Labs is Sharmin Hossain, a Bangladeshi American, who served as the Political Director before rendering her

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[103] https://thedisinfolab.org/operation-tupac/#rb-Introduction

resignation in March 2021. In April 2021, she founded a new organization Queer Crescent, which is described as a political home for LGBTQI+ Muslims.

In 2018, Equality Labs published a caste report in the US with the assistance of several organizations such as IAMC, OFMI, and Alliance for Justice and Accountability (AJA)- a coalition of Dalit organizations alongside IAMC, OFMI, and Hindus for Human Rights (HfHR).

In July 2020, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing and two Indian origin employees in the USA filed a lawsuit against IT firm Cisco Systems Inc. on the grounds of caste discrimination against one of its Indian-American employees. 7 The suit alleged that a Dalit employee at the IT company (referred to as John Doe) was discriminated against by two of his fellow Indian origin colleagues, Sundar Iyer and Ramana Kompella beginning in November 2016. The lawsuit also referred to the 2018 caste report of Equality Labs. 8 Soon after the lawsuit, Equality Labs and its founder Thenmozhi Soundararajan further raked up the issue by appearing on various media platforms.

Apart from working on the caste line, Equality Labs takes deep interest in the internal matters of India and works on different trajectories which coincidentally also happen to be the fault lines in India. Equality Labs became active during the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protests which were happening in India. During that time, Equality Labs collated CAA, National Register of Citizens (NRC), and National Population Register (NPR) with Genocide in India and released a one-page pamphlet on that.

It also released a toolkit titled "organizing against Hindu Fascism" to organize protests and run online campaigns against the Indian establishment. The toolkit gave sample tweets as well as creativity to run the campaigns and also hold protests. The password to access the toolkit is "rejectcaa". The toolkit also calls for supporting various news platforms and advocacy groups such as AltNews, Internet Freedom Foundation, and The Software Freedom Law Centre - SFLC.

On November 14, 2017, Equality Labs founder Thenmozhi Soundarajan and Pieter Friedrich staged a protest at the California Department of Education against changing the subject of the caste system in India from California History and Social Sciences Curriculum.

OFMI, was founded by Pieter Friedrich, a self-proclaimed expert on South Asia, and ally of Khalistanis terrorist Bhajan Singh Bhinder. OFMI was jointly run by Bhajan Singh Bhinder and his employee Pieter Friedrich, who once worked with the ISI to send weapons to India for terror attacks in the 1990s, according to the research by Disinfo Lab.

In May 2019, Equality Labs founder also hosted an event alongside Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) terrorist Gurpatwant Pannu, which is proscribed Khalistanis terror outfit.

HinduPACT, which shared the photograph, said that it was from an event that took place on 22nd May 2019. This particular event shows a much larger sinister plan, as it was just one day before the Lok Sabha 2019 elections results were announced. On the same day, Soundararajan's Equality Lab, in partnership with South Asian Americans Leading Together

(SAALT), then-API Chaya, and the office of representative Pramila Jayapal held a congressional briefing on caste discrimination in the US in Washington DC. Notably, that briefing was based on the dubious survey that Equality Labs did on caste discrimination. The same survey led to the SB403 bill that Tandon mentioned in his tweet[104].

Another organisation that Whose Knowledge partners with is Centre for Internet and Society. The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) is a Bengaluru-based non-profit multidisciplinary research organization. CIS works on digital pluralism, public accountability and pedagogic practices, in the field of the Internet and Society. CIS is also funded by Wikimedia Foundation and we will deal with this in a separate section.

Black Lunch Table-Whose Knowledge partnership: Afro-Dalit project?

It is pertinent to note that 'Whose Knowledge?' funded by Wikimedia Foundation partners with Art+Feminism, Equality Labs and CIS – all of which receives funds from the Wikimedia Foundation among others. It also partners with 'Black Lunch Table' – which is also funded by Wikimedia Foundation.

According to the Black Lunch Table website:

> "*Organized around literal and metaphorical lunch tables, BLT takes the school lunchroom phenomenon as its starting point. In previous iterations (2006-2011), BLT took the forms of online intercollegiate meet-ups, artist salons, and informal roundtable discussions. It presently comprises a series of artist roundtables, community roundtables, an online oral history archive, and Wikimedia initiative. The format for our roundtables is modelled after a project iteration we staged in 2014 in Chicago at The Black Artists Retreat [B.A.R.], an annual symposium for Black artists.*
>
> *Participants are curated into conversations, provided with a set of prompts, and discussions are audio-recorded and transcribed for eventual public access on our online archive. Our 2014 event provided a unique situation wherein generations of historically significant Black artists were actively involved in defining the agendas of our amorphous community.*
>
> *In January 2015, we staged our first People's Table (then called #blacklivesmatter table). That event responded to recent police involved shootings of unarmed Black people, and state-violence both locally and nationally. The #blacklivesmatter session followed the format established at [B.A.R.] 2014 in a two-part series of lunch table discussions engaging artists, activists, academics, students, politicians, and local community members from across the Research Triangle in North Carolina.*

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[104] https://www.opindia.com/2023/07/san-francisco-attack-khalistanis-associated-with-sb403-activists-thenmozhi-ro-khanna-silence/

As we researched models for the BLT archive to house the recorded audio, we noted that many significant Black artists were omitted from art historical archives and the world's most widely referenced encyclopaedia, Wikipedia. Our Wikipedia initiative redresses these omissions by mobilizing a collective authoring of articles on the lives and works of Black artists.

When we began our Wikipedia project in 2014, important figures such as Fred Moten, Meschac Gaba, Peggy Cooper Cafritz, and Valerie Cassel Oliver were all without pages. Five years later, each of these important figures has a page that began as a BLT target. Black Lunch Table is recognized as an official Wikimedia user group, Under COVID lockdown we hosted dozens of online events including, Wikipedia edit a thons, workshops, artist features, and skill shares. We also collaborated with other institutions to bring our Wikipedia project to their communities.

In 2019, BLT was granted 501c3 status, and has evolved exponentially with the support and dedication of its governance board, and the commitment of its funders. Thanks to the support of grants from the Mellon Foundation, the Warhol Foundation, the Logan Foundation, Ruth Foundation, Ford Foundation, Creative Capital, the Wikimedia Foundation, the Foundation for Contemporary Art, and the Institute for Arts and Humanities at UNC, BLT has matured from an independent collaboration between two artists into a nonprofit with administrative staff, production staff, and affiliate proxies in other cities".

From this nexus, it is apparent that Wikimedia Foundation is funding a web of organisations which further the caste narrative coupled with intersectional feminism and the Afro-Dalit theory.

The Afro-Dalit theory essentially claims that Dalits are the blacks of India and non-Dalits are the whites and that caste equals racism.

US based scholar Rajiv Malhotra has done extensive study on the subject and written about how the Afro-Dalit project is a means to end Hinduism in its entirety.

In a 2022 News18 article, Malhotra writes:

"Recently, a prominent Black intellectual called Isabel Wilkerson has written a book asserting that the Afro-Dalit identity is the epicentre of global victimhood. Titled, Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents, it claims that caste is not simply one of the many forms of racism. According to her, caste is the backbone, the structure on which all racism stands. The British learned caste ideas from Vedic texts and took these structures to America to create the framework for racism against Blacks. From America, this approach to stratifying societies travelled further, and spread to Europe where it led to the Nazi Holocaust of the Jews.

Wilkerson's outlandish claim is that caste is the root cause of all racism in the world. By isolating caste as the basic architecture on which all racism anywhere in

the world is established, she laid the foundation for Marxism's latest attack on Hindu society. The argument being made is that since casteism is indelibly associated with Hinduism because of the karma theory, it can only be destroyed if Hinduism itself is dismantled"[105].

It is also important to understand that the false equivalence between Blacks in the USA and Dalits in India has contributed to extremely divisive narratives pertaining to India. Critical Race Theory, for example, is a divisive theory which is being used in the USA to explain supposed systemic racism. It essentially views history, public policy, economics and societal norms through the lens of racism, claiming that racism against blacks is at the heart of the very essence of the USA. There has been a concerted effort to apply the same theory to India with respect to caste – saying the institutionalised casteism is systemic in the Indian society and polity. Often referred to as the Critical Caste Theory, the dangerous narrative is a product of the Afro-Dalit narrative that is peddled by organisations like Equality Labs.

The narrative is so pervasive that a write up on Critical Race Theory on the World Economic Forum also alludes to "caste" and societal hierarchy. The write up says:

> *The theory, which is typically taught at the graduate level, interrogates the role of race and racism in society. It critiques how the social construction of race and institutionalized racism perpetuate a racial caste system that relegates people of colour to the bottom tiers. Most critically, in these racially charged times we live in today, critical race theory recognizes that racism is not a relic of the past. It acknowledges that the legacy of slavery, segregation, and the imposition of second-class citizenship on Black Americans and other people of colour, continues to permeate the social fabric of American society[106].*

Just as critical caste theory propagates that every institution, norm or law is governed by inherent racism, critical caste theory aims to extrapolate the argument to caste. While the proponents of CRT dismiss any criticism as latent racism, the proponents of CCT dismiss any criticism of caste theories (like that of Equality Labs) a result of seeped casteism, thereby, dividing the Indian society.

Just as CRT is divisive in the US, CCT is divisive in India and has been concocted by the false equivalence between Dalits and Blacks – a narrative that the Wikimedia Foundation funded organisation and their collaboration seems to further.

Black Lunch Table and Whose Knowledge started as Wikimedia projects. The Black Lunch Table gets funds from Wikimedia Foundation every year.

In 2022, it got $301,799, in 2021 it got $301,799, in 2020, they got $138,647, in 2019, they got $80,000, in 2017, they got 53,000.

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[105] https://www.news18.com/news/opinion/opinion-are-dalits-the-blacks-of-india-and-brahmins-the-whites-6285271.html

[106] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/what-is-critical-race-theory/

Access Now

Access Now is a Western Leftist NGO which claims to 'defend and extends the digital rights of people and communities at risk'.

As far as their advocacy is concerned, Access Now says, "We act quickly when people need it most, leveraging innovative campaign and digital engagement tactics, bold visual advocacy, legal know-how, and dynamic policy work. We build grassroots-to-global partnerships with civil society, journalists, technologists, and beyond. We educate, petition, and appeal to decision makers, and mobilize support to pressure the powerful".

For most of these NGOs, the definition of their area of work and the nature of advocacy is a word salad that reveals paltry little. The only part, perhaps, that reveals briefly what Access Now does is the last line – "We educate, petition, and appeal to decision makers, and mobilize support to pressure the powerful".

From what is understood by their work, Access Now is a left-leaning internet access and digital rights advocacy group that works to decrease internet censorship and to curtail violations of privacy by businesses that collect the personal data of internet users.

However, as we will see, Access Now is funded by the very tech giants which collect data personal data of their users.

Before we get into the funding and other activities of Access Now, it is important to understand their role and "activism" in India.

In February 2021, Access Now spoke out against the social media regulations ushered in by the Indian Government. The advocacy groups holds significant sway in the world of activism and therefore, its statement against the regulations was important.

The group said in a statement, "Access Now is extremely concerned by the alarming new powers the Indian government has granted itself, announcing today, February 25, its increased control over content on social media platforms. It has finalised an amended set of rules — for immediate publication and implementation — to change how it can regulate internet intermediaries such as social media platforms, and online media sites."

Raman Jit Singh Chima, Asia Pacific Policy Director at Access Now, said, "The mandates in the new rules would result in encouraging internet platforms to over-censor content, require dangerous unproven AI-based content regulation tools, retain vast amounts of user data for handing over to the government, and undermine end-to-end encryption crucial for cybersecurity and individual privacy."

The IT guidelines which were issued in 2021 was essentially brought in to ensure accountability of big-tech companies, social media giants and OTT platforms. However, several vested interests, including Access Now, had raised a hue and cry.

A brief on the IT Guidelines issued in 2021 by the Govt of India

Social media

The guidelines published by the IT ministry contains comprehensive guidelines for social media platforms, which has been defined as 'social media intermediaries' which primarily or solely enables online interaction between two or more users and allows them to create, upload, share, disseminate, modify or access information using its services.

The new guidelines say that the intermediaries must publish rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement prominently on their websites. It holds significance given the controversies surrounding privacy and user data at several social media platforms, especially Facebook and its WhatsApp.

Contents not to be allowed on social media

According to the guidelines, the social media platforms will have to inform the users that they can't publish content belonging to others, defamatory, obscene, pornographic, paedophilic, invasive of another's privacy, insulting or harassing on the basis of gender, libellous, racially or ethnically objectionable. Social media users also can't publish content that is harmful to minors, infringes patent, trademark etc, violates any law, deceiving or misleading and impersonates someone else. Users also can't pose content that threatens the unity of the country, which contains software virus, and is patently false and untrue.

The guidelines make it clear that the social media platforms have to abide by any court order or government direction, and have to provide any information that is asked from time withing a given time period.

Classification of social media

The new guidelines classify the social media platforms in two categories, significant social media intermediary and other intermediary. The guidelines say that 'significant social media intermediary' means a social media with users above such threshold as may be notified by the Central Government.

The guidelines contain additional responsibilities for "significant social media intermediary", which means major platforms like Twitter and Facebook.

It says that such platforms have to appoint a Chief Compliance Officer who shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and rules made under it. They also have to appoint a nodal person of contact for 24×7 coordination with law enforcement agencies and officers. Apart from this, they also have to appoint a Resident Grievance Officer, to handle user grievances.

The following provisions also apply only for significant social media intermediaries:

Identity of first originator of objectionable content

The most important guideline regarding is that it virtually bans anonymous accounts, as it says that the social media platforms must enable the identification of the first originator of the information. It means, the platforms may require to provide an identity proof, to comply with this order. If some information has originated outside India, the first person in India who shared that information will be considered as the first originator.

However, the identity of the first originator will be required only if the information shared violates a law that attracts jail term of five years or more. This means, for social media posts that threaten the sovereignty and integrity of India, friendly relations with other nations, public order, and offences related to rape, child sexual abuse material etc, the identity of the originator will have to be revealed.

The guidelines also ask the platforms to deploy technology measures such as automated bots to identify such content. The companies also may implement human oversight mechanisms in this regard.

The guidelines make it clear that the steps taken to identify social media users will have consider the rights of free speech and privacy.

Paid posts

Another important guideline is regarding marketing and promotions done on social media, as the guideline says the social media intermediaries have to clearly mark such content as advertisement, promotion etc. This may have a significant impact on social media influencers and celebrities, who often post promotional material disguised as personal opinion in return for payment.

Voluntarily verification of accounts

While most social media platforms have mechanism to verify the accounts of users, it is arbitrary, and it depends on the whims and fancies of the officials of the companies. Verification of a social media account means that it actually belongs to the person or entity that it claims to be. Now the guidelines issued by the ministry makes provisions for voluntary verification of accounts by the users.

Removal or disabling of information

The guidelines say that if social media platforms remove or disable any information, they much give the originator of the information a notification explaining the action being taken and the grounds or reasons for such action. The user also must be given an adequate and reasonable opportunity to dispute the

action being taken by such intermediary. This will change the current scenario when social media sites, especially Twitter, suspends accounts without giving any opportunity to defend.

Social media sites also have to ensure that such actions are based on an assessment of the relevant context of the information, and they must display a notice stating the action taken by them, and the grounds or reasons for such action.

If the social media platforms fail to comply with the above-mentioned measures, then the safety net provided to them by disassociating them from the content published on their platforms will be removed. It means, if any platform does not comply with this rules, they will be held responsible for any content published on their platforms that violates any law, and the officials of such social media platforms will be prosecuted for such content.

Digital media

Apart from social media, the government also have issued guidelines for digital media platforms. Such Digital portals will have to comply with a code of ethics which has been notified along with the guidelines. It prescribes three-levels of regulation for digital portals, which are self-regulation by the entity, self-regulation by the self-regulating body of the applicable entities, and oversight mechanism by the Central Government.

For this purpose, the digital media houses will have to appoint a Grievance Redressal Officer based in India, and they will have to come together to establish a self-regulatory body headed by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge. For the third level, the ministry will develop an Oversight Mechanism, which will include an Inter-Departmental Committee for hearing grievances

The government will also establish an online grievance portal, where complaints and grievances regarding any content published by digital media sites can be submitted. The concerned entity will have to respond to such complaints, and if the complainant is not satisfied with the response, the same can be escalated to the concerned self-regulating body and then the central government.

Significant publishers of news and current affairs

The guidelines also include separate provisions for 'significant publishers of news and current affairs', which means media entities with 5 lakh subscribers or 50 lakh followers on any significant social media platform.

Such media platforms will have to notify the Broadcast Seva that it is operating in the territory of India, by furnishing the information that may be required on the Broadcast Seva by the Ministry.

Guidelines for streaming platforms

The government also have issued guidelines for online entertainment platforms. The guidelines prescribed appropriate self-classification of the shows, instead of directing any censorship. It says that the streaming platforms will have rate content in three categories, U- Universal, U/A, and A- Adult.

The U category means it is suitable for all age groups. The U/A group has been further divided into different categories, which are U/A – General, which is suitable for all but may contain scenes not suitable for young children; U/A – 7+, suitable for 7 years and above, U/A – 13+, and U/A – 16+. An A category movie or show can be watched by people aged 18 years and above only. Shows and movies containing nudity without any sexual context can be rated as U/A 16+.

The guidelines say that content on such platforms should take into account the potentially offensive impact of matters such as caste, race, gender, religion, disability or sexuality which may be depicted in such streaming shows. The ratings of the shows will depend on the language used, the depiction of sex and nudity, fear, threat and horror, and violence. Such a rating of shows and movies, instead of censoring them like what is done in case of films in India, is the international practice.

It was evident from the guidelines itself that the protestations of Access Now was far more agenda driven than based in merit. Access Now issued its statement as an advocacy group, essentially, as a non-profit organisation which is indulging in advocacy for the greater good of the people and to preserve the rights of the users.

On their website, they write, "Access Now does not accept funding that compromises its organizational independence, including funding relationships that may influence its priorities, policy positions, advocacy efforts, regions of focus, or direct action work." However, a look at their funding reveals that Access Now is essentially doing the bidding of tech-giants while undermining the interest of India.

This group receives funding from some of the companies whose data collection practices are predatory and well documented, such as Facebook and Google. Access Now has also received funding from tech companies Microsoft, DuckDuckGo, Mozilla, Amazon, and Reddit and George Soros's Open Society Foundations and Wikimedia Foundation.

In the IRS 990 documents, Wikipedia disclosed that it gave Access Now $50,000 in 2022.

ACCESS NOW 34 W 27TH STR 6TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 1000	27-0597430	501(C)(3)	50,000.	0.			TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.

Schedule I (Form 990)

In 2020, Wikimedia Foundation gave $8,000 to Access Now.

ACCESS NOW 34 W 27TH STREET, 6TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10001	27-0597430	501(C)(3)	8,000.	0.		TO SUPPORT WORK TO FURTHER MISSION.

Not just Wikimedia Foundation, several governments have officially funded Access Now.

Until June 2020, the group had received hundreds and thousands of dollars in funding from western government institutions. Funders included the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (SFDFA), UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Access Now received over $2 million from SIDA, around $61,000 from FCO and around $40,000 from the SFDFA.

Grant	Funder	Date	Amount (USD)
Core Organizational Support	Surfshark	June 2020	5,000
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	Verisign	March 2020	10,000
Core Organizational Support	Sigrid Rausing Trust	March 2020	184,410
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	Reddit	March 2020	10,000
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	Humanity United	March 2020	25,000
Program Support	Global Affairs Canada	March 2020	83,395
Program Support – Digital Security Helpline	Ford Foundation	March 2020	50,000
Core Organizational Support	Mott Foundation	March 2020	100,000
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	Automattic	March 2020	10,000
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	Amazon	March 2020	10,000
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	British Telecom	February 2020	10,000
Program Support & RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	NordVPN	February 2020	20,000
Core Organizational Support	Private Donation	February 2020	10,000
Programmatic and Pass-Thru Support	Sida	February 2020	2,043,240
Programmatic Support – Legal	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	February 2020	39,800
Program Support – #KeepItOn	UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office	February 2020	21,497
Program Support – Media Freedom	UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office	February 2020	39,422
RightsCon Online Conference Sponsorship	Luminate Group	January 2020	50,000

The previous year, the advocacy group received funds from Twitter and Facebook in addition to funds from government agencies. In fact, the majority of its funds came from government agencies. 56.3% to be precise.

The story remains the same for 2018. 49.8% of its funds, almost half of it, came from government agencies. Twitter, Google and Microsoft were other prominent donors.

In 2017, government agencies contributed 60% of Access Now funds. SIDA remained the highest remained the highest donor with nearly $3 million in funds. George Soros' Open Society Foundations donated to them as well and in significant measure.

The story follows the same pattern in 2016. More than half of its funds came from government agencies. The Dutch Ministry has funded them as well apart from the Oak Foundation and the Ford Foundation.

In 2023, Access Now received 59.3% of its funds from Development Agencies and Governments.

2023
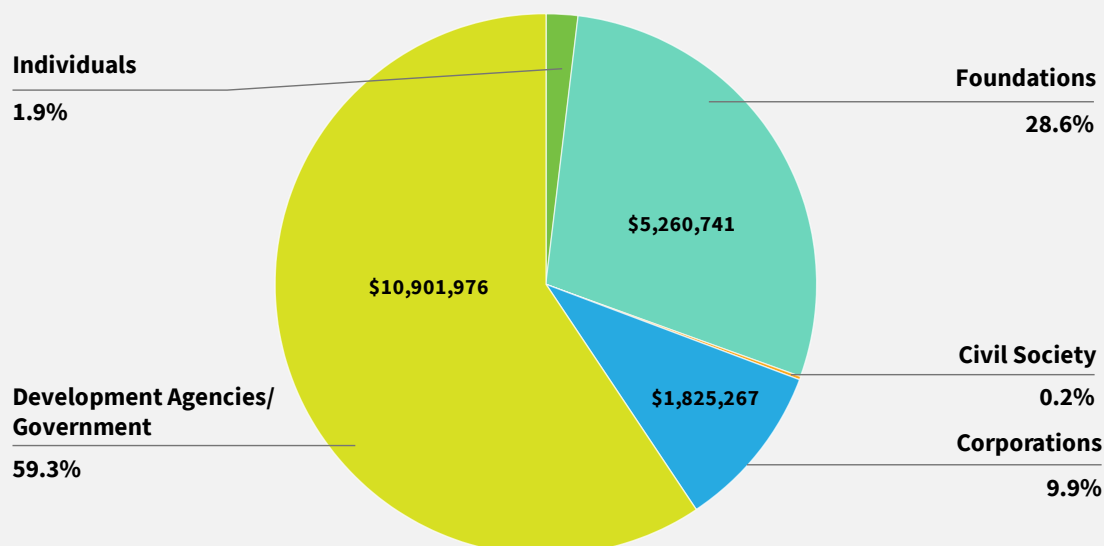
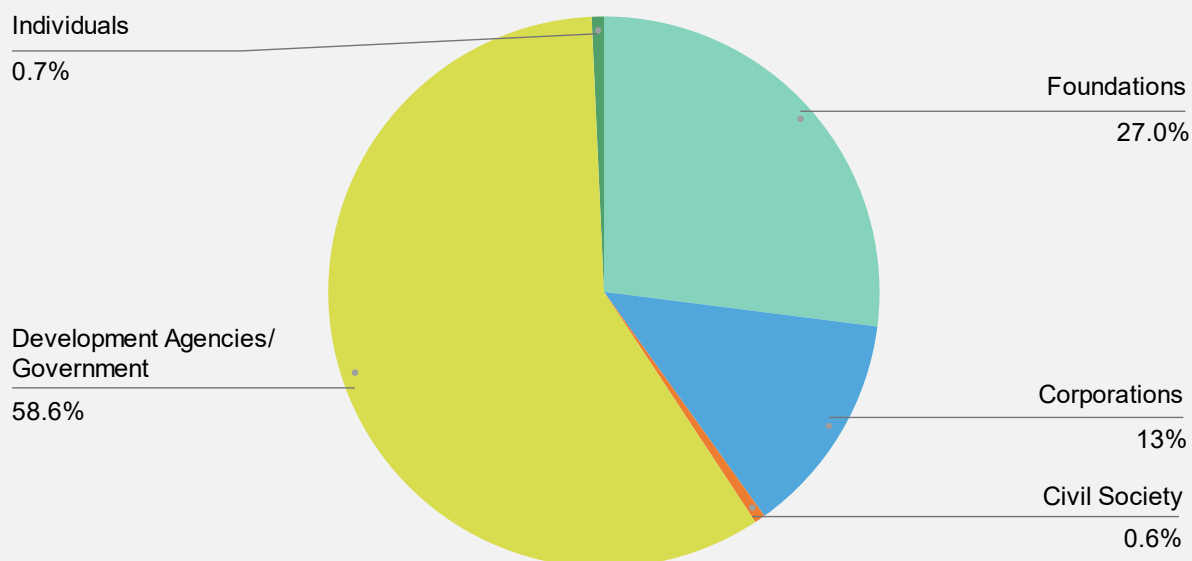In 2023, the following government entities funded Access Now:

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
2. Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
4. German Federal Foreign Office
5. Global Affairs Canada
6. German Federal Foreign Office
7. Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
8. Finland Ministry of Foreign Affairs
9. Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Other Foundations and entities that donated to Access Now in 2023 were Ford Foundation, George Soros' Open Foundation and Tides Foundation among many others.

Tech platforms included Google, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta.

In 2022, Access Now received 58.6% of its funding from government entities.

2022

Individuals
0.7%

Foundations
27.0%

Development Agencies/
Government
58.6%

Corporations
13%

Civil Society
0.6%

Thus, Access Now is majorly funded by the government of Sweden, from which it derives the overwhelming majority of its funds from government agencies. Other than that, it receives funds from the governments of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Switzerland.

The new regulations will most directly impact Twitter, Facebook and Google and are designed to make them accountable, all of which are prominent donors of Access Now. Therefore, quite clearly, when the advocacy group criticizes the regulations, it will be extremely difficult to argue that they are acting in good faith.

On the Board of Access Now is Seema Chisti. According to their website, "Seema Chishti has been a multimedia journalist since 1990, working in print, radio, and television in English and Hindi. She was Editor, Delhi with BBC (India) from 1996 to 2006. Prior to this, she worked with BBC World Service in London (1994-96) and in the television format at HTV (1990-93). Chishti has been a senior editor with The Indian Express (2006-2020) where she has published news reports, analysis on the marginalisation of minority communities, cultural change, youth, and on India's major political developments. She broke news stories on the anti-corruption movement, on Indian judicial system, electoral politics, and on technology and politics, including state surveillance of citizens. Her endeavour to tease out, untie and then help interpret the many strands of change in a large and diverse country like India continues. She recently co-authored the book 'Note by Note: The India Story (1947-2017)', a history of independent India told alongside the sound of Hindi film music for each of the years. An independent journalist, she is the Media Advisor to the National Foundation of India and will be teaching at the Asian College of Journalism, one of Asia's premium journalism institutes, this winter. She is also working on a book on an inter-religious

marriage in her family and the importance of breaking barriers and steering away from conservative values in our lives".

Seema Chisti, who is the wife of Communist Sitaram Yechury and editor of TheWire, is also an advisor at National Foundation for India – which funds AMAN (as explained in the previous section) along with Tides Foundation, Ford Foundation and others. Other advisors include Dhanya Rajendran of The News Minute and P Sainath.

Interestingly, Dhanya Rajendran and P Sainath, both have featured prominently in the NewsClick-China funding case (AMAN was also connected to the NewsClick-China funding case as detailed in previous section).

One of the organisations which emerged at the heart of the NewsClick-China funding case in 2023 was Tricontinental, a Massachusetts-based think tank, with leftist Vijay Prashad as its executive director[107].

Tricontinental was one of the nonprofit companies that received funding from Neville Roy Singham and promoted Chinese propaganda. Neville Roy Singham is on the international advisory board of the said think-tank accused of financing Chinese propaganda using American non-profit organizations.

P Sainath's People's Archive of Rural India or PARI had made several references to ThoughtWorks founder Neville Roy Singham, the US millionaire at the centre of the Newsclick Chinese funding row. Interestingly, P Sainath features as one of the senior fellows at the Tricontinental, which produced videos and articles on socialist issues showing China in a positive light.

It was also revealed that Tricontinental and Maku, a Chinese media company, agreed to work with a Shanghai University to "tell China's story", a term commonly used for masking propaganda. Vijay Prashad, a key name linked to both P Sainath and Neville Roy Singham in the scandal, is a Marxist "historian". P Sainath has also passingly mentioned Vijay Prashad among others for "huge encouragement" and "support" for his portal, PARI.

Prasad has also been a contributor at "People's Dispatch", a media portal that touts itself to be an "international media project with the mission of bringing to the world voices from people's movements and organisations across the globe." In one of the articles from January 2020, Prashad sympathised with the JNU protesters and inveighed against the Modi government.

After the expose, The People's Archive of Rural India or PARI, one of the leftwing propaganda portals which describes itself as an archive of 'occupational, linguistic, and cultural diversity' of India, removed references to ThoughtWorks founder Neville Roy Singham, the American businessman recently under the spotlight for his closed links with Chinese propaganda machinery and for funding Indian propaganda portal NewsClick.

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[107] https://www.opindia.com/2023/08/vijay-prashad-neville-roy-singham-linked-to-the-newsclick-scandal-cpim-brinda-karat-chinese-funding/

Earlier, the PARI website, founded by P Sainath, a former The Hindu journalist and one of the Urban Naxals who had sought an inquiry into allegations of sexual harassment against Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi in 2019, had extensively mentioned Singham on its Acknowledgments section, crediting him for transforming Sainath's vision of launching PARI into a reality.

"At every stage, subsequently, Roy's ideas and energy pushed forward the making of PARI. No acknowledgement of his contribution can be strong enough" the website had said[108].

Apart from Seema Chisti, it is important to delve into some of the other board members of Access Now as well. For example, Nanjala Nyabola, an Access Now board member, is the founding member of the Digital Forensic Lab at the Atlantic Council which shared a list of 40,000 Hindu handles with X in 2019 for banning them at the behest of the US govt information regulation platform GEC. Board member Arzu Geybulla writes for among other publications, Open Democracy a UK-based media platform. OpenDemocracy is owned and published through a non-profit foundation. It has been funded by the Mott Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Ford Foundation, David and Elaine Potter Foundation, Lush, Andrew Wainwright Trust and the Network for Social Change.

What it means

Wikimedia Foundation, as we would see later, has no presence in India. It has declared in the BBC documentary controversy that it is a foreign entity and therefore, Indian courts have no jurisdiction over it. Despite having no presence in India, it has consistently funded entities and individuals to further its own business and ideological interests in India. Many of these entities that are funded by Wikimedia Foundation are patently anti-India and have association with Islamists and Khalistanis. Wikimedia Foundation regularly solicits donations from India. That donation, since it comes from individuals, it not against the law. However, Wikimedia not only takes donations from India, it spends millions of dollars in India as well. All of this, while refusing to submit to Indian laws. While it continues to toe a rigid editorial line on Wikipedia, it insists that it is an intermediary and not a publisher.

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[108] https://www.opindia.com/2023/08/p-sainath-pari-removes-references-to-neville-roy-singham-after-newsclick-chinese-funding-expose/

Wikipedia and its anti-India, anti-Hindu narrative

From a cursory perusal of the organisations, foundations and entities which Wikimedia Foundation funds and accepts money from, and their subsequent anti-India activity, it is evident that the tentacles of Wikimedia Foundation are embedded deep inside the Indian territory, even if it may not seem so explicitly.

It is true that for most people, Wikipedia is merely a free online encyclopaedia which is, though flawed, one of the best mediums to get quick and somewhat accurate information on the go. It is a platform that has voluminous information because there are thousands of editors from across the globe which contribute articles and finetune information about the subject. It is also considered "reliable" by mostly unsuspecting users because no matter where you look on the internet – the information available on Wikipedia is regurgitated ad nauseum. Given the partnership between Google and Wikimedia/Wikipedia, the outcome is not one that should surprise anyone.

However, the image that Wikipedia has carefully crafted for itself, is just that – a carefully crafted image of a collaborative encyclopaedia which gives accurate information simply because thousands of people are free to discuss the information and eventually, come to an agreement on what would the most unbiased representation of the subject would be. Essentially, Jimmy Wales has long claimed that Wikipedia is 'unbiased' and 'accurate' because thousands of editors from different walks of life can contribute to articles and edit them, thereby, ensuring a self-check mechanism against bias and misinformation.

As we examined in the beginning of the paper, the contention that thousands of editors from across the world, coming from different schools of thoughts can freely discuss/edit articles on Wikipedia is a mere myth.

Before we delve into the stranglehold of a small coterie of Left editors on the platform further, it becomes important to examine instances where the bias in Wikipedia information is evident.

Democracy in India

When one Googles 'Democracy in India', the Wikipedia article is the 4th result that shows up in search. The Democracy in India should be an elaborate article given that India is world's largest democracy, every year there are elections which are much bigger than elections in most other countries and that it has an ancient, long history of participatory democracy and republics. However, the Wikipedia the article has just 3 paras, and its only focus is to claim that India's democracy is among the worst in the world.

The full Wikipedia article on 'Democracy in India'.

Democracy in India

文A **1 language** ⌄

Article   Talk   Read   Edit   View history   Tools ⌄

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

India was the 19th most electoral democratic country in Asia according to V-Dem Democracy indices in 2023 with a score of 0.399 out of 1.[1] The Economist Democracy Index in 2022 considered India a flawed democracy.[2]

Democratic backsliding [edit]

See also: Democratic backsliding by country § India

According to V-Dem Institute, laws on sedition, defamation, and counterterrorism are used to silence critics,[3] and describes India as "one of the worst autocratisers in the last 10 years".[4] Free political speech is limited.[5] Gerrymandering is another challenge to democracy in India.[6][7]

History [edit]

See also: History of democracy § Indian subcontinent

Early Shakyas, Koliyas, Mallakas, and Licchavis claim assemblies open to all men, rich and poor,[8] which could be considered a form of direct democracy. Other *saṅgha*s and *gaṇa*s had councils of unelected nobles, which don't meet the standards of democracy. Greek historian Diodorus writes two centuries after the time of Alexander the Great about democratic states in India,[9] but lacks evidence for elections considering the word "democracy" around the 3rd century BCE could mean any autonomous state.[10][11] In the 10th century, the election of local representatives for the village bodies during the Chola Empire is claimed in Vaikunda Perumal Temple's inscriptions.[12][13][14]

This short wiki article entirely relies on V-Dem Institute's democracy rankings to call India a 'flawed democracy'. The article is just a summary of V-Dem report with no counter-points, which says that India is "one of the worst autocratisers in the last 10 years".

The wiki article claims that "Free political speech is limited" based on V-Dem claims.

The article's first line originally was "Democracy in India is the largest by population in the world". But in April this year, this was changed to "India was the 19th most electoral democratic country in Asia according to V-Dem Democracy indices in 2023 with a score of 0.399 out of 1."

From the edit, it is evident that the 'editor' who removed the reference to India being the largest democracy by population commented, "what on earth does this mean" before removing it.

The line which was added had grammatical errors which could have been edited, however, the "editor" proceeded to remove the entire reference to India being the largest democracy in the world by population.

The article also had reference to a book on Indian democracy by Ramchandra Guha and a research report on Indian elections, which were removed. V-Dem ranks India below countries like Peru, Niger, Honduras etc in democracy ranking. Niger has seen several coupes and coupe attempts in recent history. The Peruvian president attempted to dissolve the Peruvian Congress in the face of imminent impeachment by the legislative body.

On history of democracy in India, the article claims that there is no evidence that elections and democracy existed in ancient India.

It is important to note that V-Dem reports have been debunked for their flawed methodology and their source of funding has come under scrutiny several times in India.

V-Dem is heavily funded by George Soros and his Open Society. The funders also include government agencies, which make the findings a direct interference in India's internal affairs.

Here are some of the funders of V-Dem[109]:

1. George Soros' Open Society

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[109] https://www.v-dem.net/about/funders/

2. Swedish Research Council
3. European Research Council
4. European Commission
5. Research council of Norway
6. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sweden
7. Canadian International Development Agency
8. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark
9. Facebook
10. USAID

George Soros, his campaigns against India and his close nexus with Wikimedia has already been detailed in this report. It is pertinent to note that the USAID is widely regarded as a regime change agency of the United States of America.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the principal U.S. agency. According to the USAID website, "The President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget Request for the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is $63.1 billion for foreign assistance and diplomatic engagement, which includes $32 billion in foreign assistance for USAID fully- and partially-managed accounts, $3 billion (10 percent) above the FY 2023 Adjusted Enacted level… The FY 2024 President's Budget also requests both mandatory and discretionary resources to out-compete China, strengthen the U.S. role in the Indo-Pacific, and advance American prosperity globally through new investments to respond to these unprecedented and extraordinary times".

The main objective of USAID is clearly, to further US interests abroad and regime change has been one of the interests of the US.

The USAID website says about their mission, "On behalf of the American people, we promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America's foreign policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development leads the U.S. Government's international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance".

One knows what it truly means when a US agency says that they want to promote "democracy" in foreign countries. In fact, on its website, USAID also says, "We aspire to lead international and US Government efforts to advance the economic, political, social, and environmental well-being of the world's most vulnerable people".

USAID is an agency funded directly by the US government and is meant to fulfil USA's foreign policy agendas[110].

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[110] https://www.opindia.com/2024/07/sam-pitroda-ngo-global-knowledge-initiative-rahul-gandhi-usaid-state-department-rockefeller-foundation-deep-state/

William Blum has said that in the 1960s and early 1970s, USAID has maintained "a close working relationship with the CIA, and Agency officers often operated abroad under USAID cover." The 1960s-era Office of Public Safety, a now-disbanded division of USAID, has been mentioned as an example of this, having served as a front for training foreign police in counterinsurgency methods (including torture techniques)

In 2023, an American lawmaker alleged that a US-based NGO in Pakistan has links with designated terrorist organizations. This NGO has been receiving financial aid from US Agency for International Development (USAID). In a letter dated January 24 2023 to USAID administrator Samantha Power, Congressman Michael McCaul, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee requested suspension of the USAID funding to the NGO pending a full and in-depth review of these accusations.

Reportedly, the in question nonprofit organization, Helping Hand for Relief and Development (HHRD), which is based in Michigan, is affiliated with Jamaat-e-Islami, an Islamist terrorist organization that operates in South Asia. USAID granted HHRD a grant of $110,000 in October 2021 to cover the costs of shipping associated with its humanitarian relief work.

"This award was made despite longstanding, detailed allegations that HHRD is connected to designated terrorist organizations, terror financiers, and extremist groups," McCaul's letter read.

Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation (FIF), the charitable arm of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the terrorist organization responsible for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, is one of the sponsors of HHRD events in Pakistan.

It is pertinent to note that FIF has been designated as a terrorist organization by the United States in 2016.

Concerns about the HHRD's relationship with Al-Khidmat, Jamaat-e-Islami's official charitable organization, were also expressed in McCaul's letter.

The United States of America, through USAID, is also now being accused of affecting regime change in Bangladesh leading to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina[111]. Minorities in Bangladesh, especially Hindus, are under serious attacks in Bangladesh after the US-sponsored coup.
It is, therefore, evident that government agencies like USAID and foundations like that led by George Soros have been attempting to affect regime change with these motivated reports. Further, it is important to see how flawed the methodology of V-Dem is.

After the 2021 V-Dem report claiming that India was no longer a democracy but an 'electoral autocracy', OpIndia had conducted a detailed research about their methodology.

First, a glance at the members of International Advisory Board organisation shows its anti-India bias. The board had two Indians – Centre for Policy Research Chairman Pratap Bhanu

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[111] https://www.opindia.com/2024/08/kyrgyzstan-pakistan-sri-lanka-bangladesh-us-diplomat-donald-lu-rahul-gandhi-met-regime-change-operations/

Mehta and JNU professor Nirja Gopal Jayal – both of them are known critic of Modi government's policies, including the CAA. It may be noted that V-Dem has used the CAA as one of the main examples as proof of India turning autocratic.

For some unknown reason, Pratap Bhanu Mehta's name was removed from the list on the V-Dem website. He was listed as an advisor on the website, as can be seen in an archive of the webpage[112].

Another member of the advisory board was a Pakistani national, lawyer-politician Aitzaz Ahsan.

Apart from the advisory board, another major concern was the so-called country experts, the people who provide the insight, based on which V-Dem ranks the countries. Shockingly, the Sweden based organisation judges whether a country is democracy or not based on the opinion of around two dozen people. The methodology adopted by V-Dem makes it clear that their report is not based a large-scale survey, but based on 'data' provided by 5 person per country for each indicator.

As the report is based on five indices, this means around 25 persons per country. The V-Dem website confirms this in their website by saying, "We endeavour to have a minimum of five experts for each indicator per country. This typically means we have twenty-five or more experts per country, since each expert only codes indicators in his/her areas of expertise."

Another matter of concern is that the 25 experts who give data on a country may not be from that country. V-Dem says that "two-thirds of Country Experts providing data on a country should be nationals or permanent residents of that country". This means, 8 or 9 'experts' out of 25 giving opinion on a country are foreigners[113].

For such motivated and biased reports[114] to form the ONLY basis of the Wikipedia article on India is essentially, aiding foreign agencies, bad-faith actors and elements like George Soros to affect regime change in India, amounting to interference in Indian democracy.

Interestingly, the page "Democracy in India" was earlier deleted by an administrator citing similar information which was contained in another page as well. However, it was later "reviewed" and created again by an administrator level editor in February 2024 – in the midst of the General Elections in India.

- 16:17, 6 February 2024 Rosguill (talk I contribs) marked the article Democracy in India as reviewed *(Tag: PageTriage)*
- 00:09, 5 November 2017 PhilKnight (talk I contribs) deleted page Democracy in India *(Expired PROD, concern was: the page has similar content to the page "Politics of India" and can be deleted without any loss of content)*

Administrator PhilKnight who had initially deleted the page is high up the Wikipedia foodchain.

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[112] https://web.archive.org/web/20201105110201/https:/www.v-dem.net/en/global-team/advisory-board/
[113] https://www.opindia.com/2021/03/the-v-dem-report-that-downgraded-india-is-opinion-of-25-people/
[114] https://sundayguardianlive.com/opinion/v-dem-report-2024-a-political-hatchet-job-in-the-name-of-research

His page reads, "Welcome to my user page. I started editing under the name 'Addhoc' in July 2006, and my request for adminship passed in September 2007. In March 2008, I changed my username and for the avoidance of doubt, I'm not this Phil Knight or anyone else notable. In July 2009, I joined the Mediation Committee, and following the December 2010 elections, I was appointed to the Arbitration Committee for a two year term. In January 2011, I was given checkuser and oversight privileges. In March 2013, I was appointed chairman of the Mediation Committee for a 6 month term. In February 2015, I was appointed to the Ombudsman commission for a 12 month term"[115].

The user Rosguill who reinstated the page is also an administrator of English Wikipedia[116].

As mentioned earlier, there are only 435 active administrators, who are from across the world. They are mostly all anonymous and their real identity is not known. Wikipedia administrators have power to alter content and decide almost everything about the articles present on Wikipedia. Not just the articles, they have the power to even decide who can or cannot edit the articles on Wikipedia.

Administrators have the right to ban editors/users, curtail their activity, protect pages so editors cannot edit the content, delete pages after discussion, delete users, decide on disputes etc.

This summarily negates the fact that Wikipedia is a free for all encyclopaedia where thousands of editors have the right to edit and ensure accurate information is presented. This article on 'Democracy in India' is also testimony to what researchers have said about Wikipedia and its bias. The 'Critic Research' cited in the beginning of the paper essentially said that Wikipedia's NPOV (neutrality) requirement does not mean that all view points in the subject gets equal prominence or even representation in an article, especially when all the sources that present a viewpoint opposing to the Left have been blacklisted by the very administrators who rule the roost on Wikipedia.

Democratic backsliding by country

This Wikipedia article lists countries where democracies are descending into autocracies, and India is in the list. Not surprisingly, V-Dem Democracy indices is the source of the claim that autocratization is taking place in India after Modi govt came to power in 2014.

It states, "The V-Dem Democracy indices claim that democratic backsliding is taking place in India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, citing the passage of the 2019 Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the government's subsequent response to the Citizenship Amendment Act protests."

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[115] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:PhilKnight
[116] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Rosguill

The Wikipedia page which cites CAA as the main reason for 'Democratic Backsliding' has failed to mention that CAA had nothing to do with Indian citizens – Hindus or Muslims. It merely expedited the citizenship for those who had already come to India before December 2014, fleeing religious persecution in neighbouring Islamic nations. The violence that subsequently took place was a result of misinformation being spread by several nefarious elements and Wikipedia regurgitates that information without basic fact-checking.

The article further states that "V-Dem Institute identified India as one of five severe cases of democratic backsliding, relating to disproportionate limitations being placed upon the role of the Parliament of India through measures responding to the COVID-19 pandemic." V-Dem is mentioned 4 times in the 390 word India section, and it is evident that the entire claim is based on V-Dem reports.

Just like the Democracy in India article, the India section of Democratic backsliding by country is also mostly a summary of V-Dem report, without any counter argument. It also quotes other such reports to claim "India is a flawed democracy."

The article also mentions Freedom House report which had downgraded India from "free" to "partly free" over anti-CAA protests. This Freedom House had used The Wire's fake Tek Fog story to make the claim. And even after the Wire retracted the story, the US government funded human rights 'watchdog' retained it.

This article on Wikipedia is the prime example of how political interests and personal beliefs tarnish information pool, with the same information being regurgitated and no scope of rectification since any publication which essentially does not toe the Left line is blacklisted on Wikipedia.

The page "Democratic Backsliding By Country" was created as an offshoot of the main page "Democratic Backsliding".

> ⚠️ **This is an old revision of this page, as edited by Buidhe (talk | contribs) at 09:17, 20 May 2022 (split from democratic backsliding; see that page's history for attribution). The present address (URL) is a permanent link to this revision, which may differ significantly from the current revision.**
>
> (diff) ← Previous revision | Latest revision (diff) | Newer revision → (diff)

In the "Democratic Backsliding" article on Wikipedia, India is mentioned in a table which charts the time since when the backsliding has supposedly started.

State	Backsliding since	Ruling group or person	Notes and references
🇸🇻 El Salvador	2019	Nuevas Ideas, under Nayib Bukele	[73][74]
🇪🇹 Ethiopia	2018	Prosperity Party, under Abiy Ahmed	[75][76][77]
🇭🇺 Hungary	2010	Fidesz, under Viktor Orbán	[78][79][80][81]
🇮🇳 India	2014	Bharatiya Janata Party, under Narendra Modi	[82][83][84]

The table says that the backsliding in India started in 2014 after India elected PM Narendra Modi.

There are three references added in Wikipedia.

1. A 'Democratic Decoupling' research paper which relies heavily on V-Dem, Freedom House which have been widely debunked[117].
2. A paper called 'A Tale of Culture-Bound Regime Evolution: The Centennial Democratic Trend and Its Recent Reversal', which again relies on V-Dem. The paper says, "Using a new measure of "comprehensive democracy" derived from V-Dem (www.v-dem.net), my analysis traces the global democratic trend over the last 116 years, from 1900 till 2016, looking in particular at the centennial trend's cultural zoning"[118].
3. The V-Dem report itself[119]

This certainly does not make the Wikipedia article "neutral". It simply cites three sources that confirms the bias of its Left leaning editors.

Interestingly, this article does not even mention countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar etc when it talks about democracy.

From the 'Talk' page of the article, it is evident that the editors of the page have a serious bias towards the Left.

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[117] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13510347.2020.1842361?journalCode=fdem20&

[118] http://fox.leuphana.de/portal/de/publications/a-tale-of-culturebound-regime-evolution-the-centennial-democratic-trend-and-its-recent-reversal(2b6baaf4-3942-4491-92ca-55782d455a62).html

[119] https://web.archive.org/web/20210227182459/https://www.v-dem.net/en/news/democratic-backsliding-india-worlds-largest-democracy/

Anti-right-wing slant [edit]

Anti-right-wing slant is quite prevalent in the article.--Democratic Backsliding (talk) 09:56, 8 November 2018 (UTC) [reply]

> I don't see it or any mention of right-wing. If you see a problem, edit the article. Doug Weller talk 10:11, 8 November 2018 (UTC) [reply]
>
> I've removed the POV tag that was added — I don't see any issue with the article as it stands from a POV perspective. If you have a specific issue, you can raise it here on the talk page for consideration. Neutrality^{talk} 15:52, 8 November 2018 (UTC) [reply]
>
> Anti-right-wing slant is quite prevalent in the article.

We have fifty years of right wing thinkers; fifty years of right wing white papers, books, and lectures; fifty years of right wing politicians; fifty years of right wing think tanks and organizations and PACs; fifty years of right wing writers, journalists, academics, and philosophers; all saying the same thing: "we hate democracy". And that is some kind of slant? Reality exists. Viriditas (talk) 23:23, 17 July 2024 (UTC) [reply]

Further, what is interesting is that this article on Wikipedia was a result of a formal "course" offered by the Wikimedia Foundation.

In the talk page, it is mentioned that this article was a "subject of a Wiki Education Foundation-supported course assignment" in 2021[120].

> 🎓 This article was the subject of a Wiki Education Foundation-supported course assignment, between 26 January 2021 and 29 April 2021. Further details are available on the course page. Student editor(s): Yupthatsmethx (article contribs ↗).
>
> ## Wiki Education Foundation-supported course assignment [edit]
>
> 🎓 This article was the subject of a Wiki Education Foundation-supported course assignment, between 26 January 2021 and 29 April 2021. Further details are available on the course page. Student editor(s): Yupthatsmethx.
>
> Above undated message substituted from Template:Dashboard.wikiedu.org assignment by PrimeBOT (talk) 19:57, 17 January 2022 (UTC) [reply]

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[120] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Democratic_backsliding

When one goes to the "Course Page" linked in this section, one sees it was a course offered by Boston University in collaboration with Wikimedia Education[121].

Wiki Edu is funded by Wikimedia Foundation[122].

This article which brands India as a country of concern where democracy is dying is basically an article which was created with the explicit funding of Wikimedia Foundation which runs Wikipedia.

2020 Delhi Riots

When one Googles 2020 Delhi Riots, the first search result is the Wikipedia article. The 2020 Delhi Riot was a planned onslaught in the nation capital by Left and Islamist groups, specifically targeting Hindus, with a stated objected of bringing the democratically elected government to its knees. The investigation into the Delhi Riots 2020, which is still sub-judice has led to some startling revelations about how the riots were planned right from December 2019, culminating in targeted violence against Hindus starting 24th February 2020.

The Wikipedia article on the 2020 Delhi Riots is summarily biased, blaming Hindus for the riots and misrepresenting the facts of the case.

The **2020 Delhi riots**, or **North East Delhi riots**, were multiple waves of bloodshed, property destruction, and rioting in North East Delhi, beginning on 23 February 2020 and brought about chiefly by Hindu mobs attacking Muslims.[13][14] Of the 53 people killed, two-thirds were Muslims who were shot, slashed with repeated blows, or set on fire.[15][16][17] The dead also included over a dozen Hindus, who were shot or assaulted.[16][18] More than a week after the violence had ended, hundreds of wounded were languishing in inadequately staffed medical facilities and corpses were being found in open drains.[19] By mid-March many Muslims had remained missing.[13]

The opening paragraph of the Wikipedia article itself lays the blame squarely on Muslims using smart language to downplay the brutal murders of Hindus and the findings of the police investigation – including court observations.

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[121] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Wiki_Ed/Boston_University/Public_Writing_Across_Genres_(Spring_2021)

[122] https://wikiedu.org/supporters/

The article starts with branding the Delhi Riots a result of "Chiefly Hindu mobs attacking Muslims".

While it gives a description of the Muslims killed, it relegates the violence against Hindus to be merely 'assaults' – when the truth is far from it.

To understand the bias of the first para itself, it is pertinent to note that when the Wikipedia article claims that "corpses were being found in open drains", it references an NPR article[123] in which, this sentence was mentioned verbatim without any corroborative evidence. The only documented case of a dead body being found in an "open drain" was that of Ankit Sharma – a Hindu IB officer who was brutally murdered by an Islamist mob – led by AAP councillor Tahir Hussain who has admitted on record that the violence was orchestrated to target Hindus. If one was to read the Wikipedia article, however, one would be led to believe that Muslim corpses by the hundreds were being found in open drains.

The second paragraph of the Wikipedia article solidifies the propaganda in the first para with wildly one-sided claims.

Muslims were marked as targets for violence.[20][21][22] In order to have their religion ascertained, Muslim males—who unlike Hindus are commonly circumcised—were at times forced to remove their lower garments before being brutalised.[23][24][25] Among the injuries recorded in one hospital were lacerated genitals.[26][27] The properties destroyed were disproportionately Muslim-owned and included four mosques, which were set ablaze by rioters.[28] By the end of February, many Muslims had left these neighbourhoods.[14] Even in areas of Delhi untouched by the violence, some Muslims had left for their ancestral villages, fearful for their personal safety in India's capital.[24]

To claim that Muslims were "Marked as targets", Wikipedia relies on conjectures. While it cannot be denied that there was retaliatory violence against Muslims, the conspiracy of the violence was against Hindus and there was no evidence of Muslims being specifically targeted or their genitals being checked to ascertain their identity. In fact, there were several accounts of Hindus being checked for their religious identity before being targeted.

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[123] https://www.npr.org/2020/03/07/812193930/delhi-riots-aftermath-how-do-you-explain-such-violence

When Wikipedia talks about mosques being targeted, they reference a link about the Ashok Nagar mosque which was gutted. There are several testimonies of local Hindus who don't deny that the mosque was burnt but say that the mosque was burnt only after a Hindu temple was burnt by Muslim mobs[124]. It is also true that several Hindus were acquitted for Ashok Nagar violence, something that the Wikipedia article fails to mention[125].

The Wikipedia article further reads:

> "The riots had their origin in Jaffrabad, in North East Delhi, where a sit-in by women against India's Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 had been in progress on a stretch of the Seelampur–Jaffrabad–Maujpur road, blocking it. On 23 February 2020, a leader of the ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, Kapil Mishra, called for Delhi Police to clear the roads, failing which he threatened to "hit the streets". After Mishra's ultimatum, violence erupted. Initially, Hindu and Muslim attacks were equally lethal. Most deaths were attributed to gunfire. By 25 February 2020, the balance had shifted. Rioters wearing helmets and carrying sticks, stones, swords or pistols, and the saffron flags of Hindu nationalism entered Muslim neighbourhoods, as the police stood by. Chants were heard of "Jai Shri Ram" ("Victory to Lord Rama"), a religious slogan favoured by prime minister Narendra Modi's party. In the neighbourhood of Shiv Vihar, Hindu rioters attacked Muslim houses and businesses for three days, often firebombing them with cooking gas cylinders and gutting them without resistance from the police. In some instances, Muslims countered perceived threats by returning the violence; on the 25th a Muslim mob approached a Hindu neighbourhood throwing stones and Molotov cocktails and firing guns. During this time, stories were also told of Sikh and Hindu families coming to the aid of besieged Muslims; in some neighbourhoods, the religious communities cooperated in protecting themselves from violence."

The conspiracy to commit violence in February was being hatched since the 5th of December 2019. In fact, on the 23rd of February, it was the Muslim mob which started pelting stones against the Hindus and the police personnel and the first person to be murdered by the Muslim mob was police constable Ratan Lal.

There is no basis to claim that it was Kapil Mishra who had instigated violence and yet, Wikipedia has repeated this trope ad nauseum without adding the counter argument either of other media houses or of the police investigation itself.

Further, it is a lie that most deaths on the 23rd and 24th were attributable to gun fire. On the 24th itself, Ratan Lal was lynched to death by a Muslim mob. It was on the night of 24th that the hands and legs of a Hindu man, Dilbar Negi, were chopped and he was burnt alive by a Muslim mob – in Shiv Vihar – where Wikipedia claims Muslims were overwhelmingly

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[124] https://www.opindia.com/2020/02/eyewitnesses-delhi-riots-shiva-temple-desecration-triggered-attack-on-mosque/
[125] https://www.opindia.com/2022/09/delhi-court-acquits-yogendra-singh-and-suraj-in-a-delhi-riots-fir-filed-by-shamshad/

attacked. Further, it was on the 25th that Ankit Sharma was brutally killed by Tahir Hussain and his Muslim mob – the very date when Wikipedia says the violence became overwhelmingly anti-Muslim.

Shiv Vihar, which the Wikipedia article claims was the epicentre of Hindus attacking Muslims, was actually the very place where Hindus came under attack overwhelmingly. Dilbar Negi was murdered amidst chants of "throwing Kafirs out" and "taking Hindu girls away" – these slogans were raised throughout Shiv Vihar[126].

Further, it was in Shiv Vihar where even a Hindu school was not spared, with attacks being launched from a Muslim school. Evidence of the fact that the violence was preplanned came from Shiv Vihar as well, where it was revealed how Muslim students from the Muslim owned school were sent home early – right before the violence against the Hindu school commenced. From the roof of the Muslim owned school, weapons, acid pouches, catapults etc were recovered.

The Wikipedia article furthers lies about CAA and shockingly, fails to even mention Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid – two of the prime accused in the conspiracy case.

The 2020 Delhi Riots page is also locked, which means that the thousands of editors across the world have no access to edit the page. The page is under 'extended access' protection which means – "Articles under extended confirmed protection (ECP) can be edited only by extended-confirmed accounts – accounts that have been registered for at least 30 days and have made at least 500 edits, or have been manually granted extended-confirmed rights by an administrator (usually because the account is a legitimate alternative account of a user who has extended-confirmed rights on another account). Extended confirmed (30/500) protection is therefore a stronger form of protection than semi-protection (rough guide)".

Essentially, only a handful of people would have access to edit this page and that too, the administrators can reverse – which has happened in the past – as a result – the misinformation would never be corrected given the Left confirmation bias of Wikipedia's senior editors and administrators along with other sources which present an alternate view being in the blacklisted category.

The 2020 Delhi Riots page was created by a Wikipedia editor DBigXray who has now deleted his original account and in all probability, functions under another pseudonym.

There are several conversations in the 'talk' page which reveal the ideological bias with which this page was created and curated.

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[126] https://swarajyamag.com/politics/kill-hindu-kafirs-and-take-away-their-daughters-delhi-riots-chargesheet-tells-how-a-muslim-mob-set-dilbar-negi-on-fire

Total Ignorance of facts in this article. [edit]

Violence has been a duet here. People from both communities caused harm and suffered. But this particular article is discriminative and needs to be removed immediately for false spread of information. Ishan241200 (talk) 08:21, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

> Ishan241200, please provide the content you want to add with WP:RS sources. »—DBigXray≫ 08:23, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

Semi-protected edit request on 26 February 2020 [edit]

On contrary on what is written this is not a communal riot as Muslims are not the only people affected. Even hindus have been attacked, killed and affected. Furthermore inspite of provocative statement from kapil mishra, it was the Anti- CAA protestors who started the violence by pelting stones on the people who were supporting the act. AaRonBran (talk) 08:56, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

> This edit request has been answered. Set the |answered= or |ans= parameter to no to reactivate your request.

> Not done: please provide reliable sources that support the change you want to be made. »—DBigXray≫ 09:03, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

Semi-protected edit request on 26 February 2020 [edit]

47.8.27.148 (talk) 08:56, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

Warish pathan (AIMIM Leader) andAmanat ullah khan (AAP leader) and AAP leaders are main culprits of this riot based on CAA.

> This edit request has been answered. Set the |answered= or |ans= parameter to no to reactivate your request.

> Not done: please provide reliable sources that support the change you want to be made. »—DBigXray≫ 09:03, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

Semi-protected edit request on 26 February 2020 [edit]

Rioters killed Rahul Solanki in cold blood after muslim mobs attacked hindu houses. Muslim mob killed Vinod a resident of Brahmapuri street number 01 in cold blood by lynching him in front of his son.
https://www.jagran.com/delhi/new-delhi-city-ncr-delhi-violence-know-about-rahul-solanki-who-killed-in-caa-protest-20064151.html

Mohd Shahrukh was arrested for firing 8 rounds on police personnel after his gun wielding video clip and pics went viral. 2409:4053:228B:3EA4:26E8:916:629B:A243 (talk) 05:52, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

> This edit request has been answered. Set the |answered= or |ans= parameter to no to reactivate your request.

> Not done: it's not clear what changes you want to be made. Please mention the specific changes in a "change X to Y" format and provide a reliable source if appropriate. Also follow WP:NPOV »—DBigXray≫ 05:58, 26 February 2020 (UTC)

In one of the conversations, an editor provides sources for Ankit Sharma being stabbed multiple times and even the brutality that was done to Dilbar Negi. The "senior editors" simply dismiss these claims. To date, Dilbar Negi is not mentioned in the Wikipedia article. The conversation also refused to consider evidence and sources regarding how the violence was not anti-Muslim but anti-Hindu in nature[127].

If Wikipedia truly followed the neutral point of view rule, it could have, at the least, added how some sources claim that it was an anti-Muslim violence while others make an argument for how it was anti-Hindu. While only the latter is true, adding both would still show 'neutrality', however, none of this information was considered and added to the page which

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[127] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:2020_Delhi_riots/Archive_20#The_conviction_in_court_tells_a_totally_different_story

shows the biased approach of the editors. It is also pertinent to note that a lot of the information was dismissed outright because the sources themselves have been blacklisted by Left leaning editors.

In one of the conversations, after 9 Muslims were convicted for causing planned riots against Hindus, it was brought to the attention of admins that the claim that the riots were anti-Muslim should be changed. The editors, clearly biased, resorted to whataboutery to not include that version[128].

Throughout the 'talk' pages, the only reason given to not add a counterview based on factual positions is that the admins and editors need "reliable" sources and the sources themselves have been selected carefully only to conform to a Left bias.

The biases in the Wikipedia article about the Delhi Riots 2020 is enough for an entire research paper. For the purpose of this paper, we would limit ourselves the details already mentioned, since it substantiates the question of bias substantially.

"Hindu terrorism" article – opinions passed off as fact, crimes of omission

If one searches 'Hindu Terrorism' on Google, the first result that comes up is the Wikipedia article.

There is a wiki page called Hindu terrorism, and it is mostly based on opinions published in various outlets like Economic and Political Weekly, Caravan, Wire, Scroll etc. It claims that the accused in Hindu terrorism were members of Hindu organisations such as Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) or Abhinav Bharat.

However, the terminology used by them makes no way for nuanced takes and glosses over several important facts that negated any existence of "Hindu Terror". It also ensures that it does not delve into the allegations, backed by several testimonies and facts, that it was Congress which actively tried to perpetuate the myth of saffron terrorism.

The entire section defining "Hindu Terrorism vs Hindutva Terrorism" is a work of fiction, dubious opinions and crimes of omission.

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[128] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:2020_Delhi_riots/Archive_19

"Hindu terrorism" and "Hindutva terrorism"

According to Nikita Saxena writing for *The Caravan*, the term "Hindu terrorism" gained traction in the wake of the 2007 Samjhauta Express bombings and 2008 Malegaon blasts.[7][*undue weight? – discuss*] A prominent reference to "Hindu terrorism" was made by Indian National Congress (Congress) member Digvijaya Singh in a 2007 campaign.[8][9][10][Note 1]

While the perpetrators have consistently justified these acts by their Hindu faith, some writers prefer to use the term "Hindutva terrorism". Writer and activist Subhash Ghatade asserts that "most critics" have avoided describing the term as "Hindu terrorism" and instead talked about "Hindutva terrorism".[1] Political scientist Jyotirmaya Sharma argues that "there is no Hindu terrorism" because the perpetrators do not represent the Hindu faith.[12]

The position of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is that Hindu terrorism does not exist, because "Terrorism and Hindus are an oxymoron and can never be related to each other".[13][14] According to the journalist and BJP leader Balbir Punj, the term "Hindu terror" was invented and used by the Congress party in the aftermath of the 2007–2008 incidents in order to denounce the party's political opposition as terrorists.[15] In the 2018 book *Hindu Terror: Insider Account of Ministry of Home Affairs*, Ramaswamy Venkata Subra Mani, a former officer in the Home Ministry, alleged that the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had forced Home Ministry officials to manufacture a narrative about the presence of "Hindu terror".[16]

However, in 2019, BJP's narrative has been put into question by the revelation that the Multi-Agency Centre had created a standing focus group with the narrowly limited mandate of looking into terror funding "for Islamist & Sikh Terrorism" only, despite the existence of multiple historical terrorism cases for which individuals linked to Hindu nationalist groups, such as Pragya Thakur and Aseemanand, have been arrested and tried.[7]

The section starts by citing an opinion article written by one Nikita Saxena for The Caravan Magazine to indicate when the phrase "Hindu Terrorism" started to get traction. The article was actually about how the Modi government investigating terror financing of Islamic and Sikh terror groups – many of which are proscribed internationally. There is no dispute which exists throughout the world that Islamic and Sikh extremist groups have indulged in grievous terror activities and been convicted for it. It was in this article that The Caravan writer talks about Hindu terrorism, laden with opinions and conjectures. The same article is also referenced in the last paragraph of this section which talks about the Multi-Agency Centre which created focus groups with the mandate of looking into Islamist and Sikh terrorism and the funding that they get.

First and foremost, the referencing of an opinion piece on a publication is in itself problematic. Wikipedia is supposed to be a user sourced 'encyclopaedia' and one of the reasons why it has a serious left bias is because of opinions by those agreeable to the Left ideology are passed off as facts. Further, if one notices there is a tag next to the reference to the Caravan article which says, "undue weight? – discuss".

Undue Weight is a Wikipedia guideline which says, "Neutrality requires that mainspace articles and pages fairly represent all significant viewpoints that have been published by reliable sources, in proportion to the prominence of each viewpoint in those sources".

The problem with this guideline is embedded, making it impossible for the article to be neutral in viewpoint since the pool of "reliable sources" is in itself tarnished as discussed in the research on Wikipedia Bias. Essentially, Wikipedia editors, who are overwhelmingly Left leaning blacklist any source as "unreliable" if it does not conform to their own political bias and therefore, they only represent the views which are presented by the Left. Even material evidence and fact-checks which do not conform to the Left bias are not mentioned in Wikipedia because the sources which are not verifiably left are blacklisted and therefore, cannot be cited to present any alternate viewpoint or facts. The result is that the Wikipedia articles regurgitate every fake news peddled by the Left without a counter and pass off even opinions as facts.

The sleight of hand is also evident in the second sentence of the section where it is mentioned that Digvijay Singh had prominently mentioned the term "Hindu terrorism" in his 2007 election campaign. The opposition by the BJP to the usage of the term is not mentioned in the same paragraph, as neutrality would dictate, but as an explanatory note towards the end.

The second paragraph of the section starts with "While perpetrators have consistently justified these acts by their Hindu faith", however, this sentence has no reference. It is essentially an opinion by the editors of the page and not supported by any evidence. This sentence is used to make a case for why the article is using the term "Hindu terrorism" and not "Hindutva terrorism" – claiming that Hindus who have supposedly indulged in terror activity (not supported by facts) have justified their actions in the name of Hinduism. This is done essentially to water down Islamic terrorism and put Hindus on the same list as Islamic terrorists – as evidenced by the fact that the Caravan article, making the same case, is referenced in this article, despite being a mere opinion.

In the third paragraph, the article does mention some opinions on Congress' coinage of the Hindu terror bogey, however, it then discredits it by against quoting the Caravan article where it mentions that the BJP's "narrative" that Congress created the Hindu terror bogey sans facts is negated by the fact that it was investigating terror financing to Islamic and Sikh terror groups. It makes this claim by saying that while the Modi govt was investigating Islamic and Sikh terrorism, it ignored "several cases" of Hindu terror where Pragya Thakur and Aseemanand have been "tried and arrested".

The last sentence essentially makes it sound like Pragya Thakur and Aseemanand were held guilty by a court of law, however, that is not true. The first example of 'Hindu terror' in the article is Samjhauta bombing, where all accused were acquitted – including Aseemanand and Sadhvi Pragya. In fact, there were several investigations and proofs which showed that Congress had potentially let go of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists who were responsible for the Samjhauta Blast in order to torture and implicate Hindus in the case. In the Malegaon Blast as well, which this article refers to, the same contentions had surfaced.

For 2006 Malegaon blast, initially, nine suspects were included in the charge-sheet based on the available evidence. One of the suspects Shabbir owned a battery unit in Malegaon – he was alleged to be a trained operative of LeT and investigators had found traces of RDX in his factory

For Samjhauta Express blast, United States shared intelligence inputs about the proven links of Arif Qasmani, a Pakistani national linked with terrorist organizations. UN Security Council has still listed him as the perpetrator of Samjhauta Express blast.

However, the Government of India changed the course of the investigation to implicate alleged Hindu extremists, one of which was Lt. Col Srikant Purohit, a serving army officer. He was also charged for the 2008 Malegaon Blast. For 2008 Malegaon Blast, another alleged Hindu extremist named Sadhvi Pragya Thakur was charged.

In the Court, as many as 59 witnesses from the Army stated that Purohit was a military intelligence person who was actually doing his job (of gathering intelligence inputs) by infiltrating extremist organizations.

In 2016 it was found that ATS had planted RDX to frame Col Purohit and Sadhvi Pragya to prove Hindu extremism. Inspector Mehboob Abdul Karim Mujawar also confirmed in a video that ATS team had planted RDX to frame Purohit and Sadhvi Pragya.

In August 2017, Col Purohit was granted bail after spending 9 years in jail. Earlier, in April 2017, Sadhvi Pragya was granted bail too. The Bombay High Court, while granting bail to Sadhvi Pragya stated in its order that prima facie, there's no case against her.

In fact, in the Samjhauta Blast case, initial reports had suggested the involvement of Pakistan based terror group Laskhar-e-Taiba. In 2009 Asif Qasmani was named as the main accused by the United States treasury and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) which resulted in him getting a travel ban and also got his asset frozen.

But surprisingly the Indian investigative agencies drew a completely different conclusion and blamed "Saffron Terrorists" for the blast. According to reports in 2010, the NIA was 'convinced' that Hindus had done the blast (they were later acquitted by the court).

A Times Now expose had also revealed that the time that the Pakistani suspects who had planted the bomb were let off without any proper investigation under the UPA government. According to the report the Pakistanis named Ajmat Ali and Usman were initially arrested by the Indian authorities but were discharged within a fortnight.

One suspect named Ajmat Ali was arrested by the Punjab Police from the Attari Railway Station as he did not have valid papers. He was apparently using an alias named Rajesh Khanna but had a resemblance to the sketches of the bomb planter which were published by the GRP in connection with the Samjhauta blast.

But according to Gurdeep Singh, who was the Investigative Officer assigned to the Samjhauta Blast case, Ajmat was let off the hook after preliminary interrogation due to "directions from seniors".

None of these details have, of course, been added by the Wikipedia article[129][130].

In the Ajmer Dargah blast, the Wikipedia article mentions that the accused had, in fact, said that they had been forced to implicate RSS by the then Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde. However, elsewhere, it mentions how Shinde had spoken about Hindu terrorism and also, calls Abhinav Bharat a "Hindu militant group" without mentioning that Shinde had, in fact, apologised for his "Hindu terror" remark[131] and that it was indeed the Congress government which had refused to designate Abhinav Bharat as a terror group saying that they had not indulged in terror activity.[132]

The article was originally titled Saffron Terror, but later it was renamed to Hindu terrorism. However, the original article said that "Saffron Terror is identical to Hindu Terror or Hindu Terrorism."

In the 'Islamic terrorism' article, they have mentioned multiple times that this term is 'misnomer', and use of the term is disputed. It cites several entities opposing the use of the term Islamic terrorism, but no such objection is mentioned in the Hindu terror article.

In one section in the "talk" page, it is evident that a portion on the Delhi Riots 2020 was removed because the version did not suit the administrator and editor's political narrative.

The page on Hindu terrorism has been marked "Require extended confirmed access", which means it is extremely difficult for average Wikipedia editors to edit and therefore, the bias would not be corrected based on verifiable information.

The 'talk' page, a senior Wikipedia editor booked in India for creating strife and bias

Previously, a section on Delhi Riots 2020 was added to the Hindu terror Wikipedia article. In this section, it was added that a police investigation into the incident had revealed that the perpetrator belonged to AAP and therefore, it was a conspiracy to create strife.

(see screenshot below)

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[129] https://www.opindia.com/2017/06/did-upa-govt-let-off-pakistani-suspects-in-samjhauta-blast-to-further-saffron-terror-theory/

[130] https://www.opindia.com/2019/05/how-congress-created-the-hindu-terror-theory-a-saga-that-started-not-with-malegaon-blasts-but-sikh-massacre-of-1984/

[131] https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/shinde-apologises-for-hindu-terror-remark-ahead-of-budget-session/article4435746.ece

[132] https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/centre-rejects-maharashtra-govts-proposal-to-ban-abhinav-bharat/article5049051.ece

2019 Citizenship Amendment Act protests

Hindu fundamentalists have targeted protesters during the Citizenship Amendment Act protests. On 30 January 2020, a man opened fire during a protest at the Jamia Milia Islamia, injuring one protester.[84][85] He chanted slogans of "*Jai Shri Ram*" (Hail Lord Rama).[86] On 1 February 2020, another man fired bullets near the stage of Shaheen Bagh protests though reportedly there was no casualty. When police caught him, he was chanting "*Jai Shri Ram*" and was saying "I want Hindu Rashtra in this country".[87] When asked about why he had fired, he replied "*Hamare desh mein aur kiski nahin chalegi, sirf Hinduon ki chalegi*" (In our country, only Hindus can prevail).[88] The Delhi Police later revealed that he is a member of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP),[89] and the BJP termed the whole incident as a conspiracy by AAP to attract Muslim votes by creating a communal divide.[90]

In the talk page, a Wikipedia editor, "Kautilya3" essentially said that the Delhi Police investigation should be removed since the Delhi police specifically is not a reliable source of information.

Delhi Police allegations

Bharatiya29 Your recent edit shows you are simple violating WP:NPOV. This ⧉ and this one ⧉, both shows your are using and adding your own opinion and version here. His father clearly said, "We did not join the AAP. Till 2012, I was in the BSP (Bahujan Samaj Party), after that my health deteriorated and I left politics. When Lok sabha election was about to take place, these people (AAP) came and we did it (wore the cap) for fun. This time, I even garlanded the BJP candidate. I'm not connected to politics".The Hindu ⧉ Original video of his father and brother.The Quint ⧉ His brother clearly said, they wear it because the is an *act of respect to them by the party* not any membership. There is no membership given. Now tell me in your reply through edit summary, you pointed this "I avoided it for being WP:UNDUE because then mentioning his father's association with the BSP" which is his past association but fail to mention the present association "This time, I even garlanded the BJP candidate.". This allegations are baseless and need not to be mentioned as the subject matter is about violence and there is no evidence if AAP or BJP is behind this. Dey subrata (talk) 22:55, 6 February 2020 (UTC)

I would like to bring Kautilya3, El C, MarnetteD, Staszek Lem, Vanamonde93 to this matter, what do you people think of it. Dey subrata (talk) 22:58, 6 February 2020 (UTC)

> Yup. The Delhi Police is hardly a reliable source. The allegation should be removed. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 23:07, 6 February 2020 (UTC)

Further in the talk page, another editor chimed in saying that if there is another version of the event which the Delhi Police discovered, it has to be mentioned in the article.

Thereafter, administrator agreed that Delhi Police is not a reliable source (while the Left-leaning media is) and proceeded to delete the entire section since the investigation did not conform to his political bias.

> First of all, this section itself should not be added until the scope of this article is clearly defined. As long as this section is present, any counter-claim disputing its association with "Hindu fundamentalism" has to be mentioned to present the whole picture. Now if you want to add a counter-counter-claim by the family members, feel free to do so. Anyway, just presenting the one side of the story is inappropriate. **Bharatiya**29 12:19, 7 February 2020 (UTC)
>
>> The Delhi police are not a reliable source, and membership in any party is not mutually exclusive with any ideology. Portraying the shooter's (supposed) membership in the AAP as somehow contradicting the rest of the paragraph is both original research and an NPOV violation. I've removed the text in question. Vanamonde (Talk) 17:40, 8 February 2020 (UTC)

It is important to mention here that Kautilya3 is a Indian-origin UK-based doctor – Uday Reddy – who was recently booked in India for spreading disharmony between communities with his anti-India edits on Wikipedia[133].

An FIR has been registered against the Indian-origin man who works as a professor at a University in the United Kingdom by the Manipur police in the state capital Imphal. He was accused of inflammatory posts and statements on social media platforms.

Reddy's X handle Kautilya3 is withheld in India. In the complaint against Reddy, it was stated that he may have links with Khalistanis elements in Canada. He has been accused of editing Wikipedia articles with misleading information.

The complaint against Reddy was filed by a resident of Manipur based on which the FIR was registered. Reddy teaches Computer Science at the University of Birmingham. It has been alleged that Reddy has been working online to create tensions between Meitei and Kuki communities on religious grounds in Manipur. The FIR has been registered with a police station in Imphal East district under Sections 117 (abetment), 295-A (insulting religious sentiments), 153-A (promoting enmity between communities) and other relevant provisions of law.

The complaint read, "The accused person deliberately with malicious intention insulted the Meitei's religious beliefs and promoted enmity between the Meiteis and other communities on religious grounds." Though Reddy has not officially given any statement on social media, he has thanked others for expressing solidarity with him.

The police said in a statement that Reddy often hosts spaces on social media platforms and allegedly directs people in Manipur on how to create unrest and trouble against law enforcement personnel. The complaint read, "The unlawful activities of the accused person and his associates amount to anti-national activities that challenge the integrity and sovereignty of India, and are fit to be dealt with under the relevant provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act."

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[133] https://www.opindia.com/2024/07/fir-against-uk-based-indian-origin-professor-uday-reddy-manipur-kuki-meitei-hatred/

It further read, "As there is a high possibility of the accused being linked with Khalistanis in Canada… and with narco-terrorist groups… the call records of the accused, financial activities… may kindly be investigated." The complainant also requested the Indian authorities to contact the employers of Reddy and inform them about the "criminal acts committed by him against India". He also requested to issue a lookout circular (LOC) to monitor entry and exit points in India.

Uday Reddy has been called out multiple times for his lack of understanding about Manipur and for spreading propaganda about Meitei community. For instance, in one of the discussions he was called out for his failure to accurately address Manipur's history, specifically the Anglo-Kuki war.

He was also seen mocking Meitei victims on several instances.

He also showed his anti-Hindu bias multiple times. In April 2022, he accused Hindus of "weaponising" Ram Navami against Muslims. In a post on X, he wrote, "Hindutva nationalist organisations, spearheaded by RSS and BJP, have weaponised the festival to create Hindu–Muslim frictions, causing riots and deaths, in which the Muslims have been the major sufferers."

In reality, it was Muslims who have attacked Hindus across India on Hindu festivals like Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti. In fact, processions related to festivals of Saraswati Puja and Ganesh Chaturthi too have been attacked, which are benign festivals related to celebration of wisdom and knowledge.

Godhra Train Burning – whitewashing a massacre

When one searches "Godhra Train Burning" using the Google search engine, the first result to show up is the Wikipedia article.

The first paragraph of the Wikipedia article itself reveals the utter bias of the page.

> The **Godhra train burning** occurred on the morning of 27 February 2002: 59 Hindu pilgrims and *karsevaks* returning from Ayodhya were killed in a fire inside the Sabarmati Express near the Godhra railway station in the Indian state of Gujarat.[1] The cause of the fire remains disputed.[2][3][4] The Gujarat riots, in which Muslims were the targets of widespread and severe violence, occurred shortly afterward.[3]

The first paragraph of the Wikipedia article says that the cause of the fire that burnt 59 Hindu pilgrims to death "remains disputed" even though multiple people have been convicted for burning the Sabarmati Express train in Godhra.

In fact, even Indian leftists have almost stopped claiming that it was an accident, but the Wiki article in the first para says that "The cause of the fire remains disputed".

The truth, however, is not "disputed"[134].

On 27th February 2002, the Sabarmati express was scheduled to reach Godhra station at about 3:30 am. On that day, the train was running four hours late. As such, it arrived at Godhra by 7:40 am.

8 minutes later, a mob of 2000 Islamists set 59 Hindus, including 25 women and 15 children, in the coach S6 of the train on fire in Godhra's predominantly Muslim area – Signal Falia.

31 Islamists were found guilty of the Godhra massacre on February 22, 2011, by the trial court (with only 11 receiving the death penalty and 20 receiving life in prison), and all 31 convictions were affirmed by the Gujarat High Court in October 2017, resulting in everyone receiving a life sentence. Prior to that, based on the testimony of witnesses and survivors, it was obvious to anybody with even a modicum of intellectual integrity that Muslims had set the train on fire.

In February 2003, an accused person made a judicial confession in which he acknowledged that Godhra was a well-planned attack and that he had personally participated in it. A judicial confession is conclusive evidence. This proves that the Godhra carnage was a preplanned attack on the innocent Karsevaks.

In the March 2006 issue of Outlook, a report was published. This report includes the following two paragraphs:

Gayatri Panchal, a resident of Ahmedabad, who survived the incident on February 27, 2002, but lost both her parents in her reaction to the report has said, "The report of the Banerjee Commission is absolutely wrong. I have seen everything with my own eyes and barely escaped myself but lost both my parents."

Panchal, who has three sisters, said the Banerjee Commission report was not correct as the fire could not have been accidental as no one was cooking in the S-6 coach and it was packed with passengers. "Mobs pelted stones at the coach for a long and then threw in burning rags and also poured some inflammable material so that the coach was on fire. I will maintain the same wherever I am called to depose on the matter," Panchal said.

So, it is clear that, according to the eyewitness account, coach S-6 caught fire when Muslims drenched it in gasoline, set it ablaze, and circled the railway from all sides to prevent the Ramsewaks from leaving, according to the police's obviously plausible statement.

It becomes necessary to refer to the Nanavati-Mehta commission's comments which cite the forensic science laboratory's reports. The report denies all the possibilities and conspiracies

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[134] https://www.opindia.com/2023/01/bbc-documentary-on-gujarat-riots-whitewash-islamists-who-set-the-godhra-train-on-fire/

raised by Muslims and liberal activists inventing multiple reasons for the coach being set ablaze.

These theories included ideas of an imaginary scuffle between Karsevaks and the local Muslim vendors, and an equally untrue incident of Hindus molesting a Muslim girl. Here is what the commission has concluded:

> "From the evidence of all these witnesses and other material on record it becomes clear that except overcrowding in the train and occasional raising of slogans inside the train and on platforms of the intervening stations, the Ramsevaks had not done anything and no incident had happened earlier which could have led to the incident which later on happened at Godhra. In absence of any evidence whatsoever indicating any incident on the way, the Commission has no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that the suggestion made by Jamiat e Ulma-E-Hind that a quarrel had taken place between Ramsevaks and vendors at Ujjain railway station is without any basis. Its journey from Ayodhya to Godhra was trouble-free."

Regarding the fire and its origin, D V Talati had told the Nanavati-Mehta Commission,

> "About 60 litres of inflammable liquid must have been used in burning that coach. The floor of the coach in some places was totally burnt. After explaining the difference between a fire in an open space and a fire in a confined place, he stated that the phenomenon of flashover can happen in a place that is small and completely closed. The size of S/6 was quite big. Its total area of it was 5000 sq. ft. Therefore, there was no possibility of a flashover in that coach unless the fire was big. The fire had not started from below the coach. The total quantity of liquid that was required for burning the coach could not have been thrown from outside, nor the fire which took place in S/6 could have been caused only by the burning rags thrown in it. As there was more damage in the eastern part of the coach, he had come to the conclusion that the fire had originated in the eastern part of that coach."

The Godhra train burning of 2002 is the clearest illustration of the ruthless inhumanity of Islamists. For the Wikipedia article to claim that the cause of the fire remains "disputed" is a gross twisting of facts meant to whitewash a conspiracy that claimed the lives of 59 Hindus including children and women.

When the question of bias was brought up on the "talk" page of the Wikipedia article, the senior editor on Wikipedia defended the glaring bias.

This is a biased article that contradicts the court judgement [edit]

The courts have ruled with smple evidence that this was an act of arson. The article is lying and biased about it and cannot be trusted. 2409:40C4:2A:24D7:18BB:F637:408D:CFBD (talk) 19:36, 27 December 2023 (UTC) [reply]

> Our policies on maintaining a Neutral point of view require us to summarize what reliable sources say, not what the courts say. Vanamonde93 (talk) 05:40, 28 December 2023 (UTC) [reply]
>
>> Looking at some of the sources there do seem to be confessions that explain how access could have been gained to the rear coach. I think the OP, while perhaps not expressing it in a suitable way, has a point. All the best: *Rich Farmbrough* 14:56, 16 April 2024 (UTC). [reply]

When someone pointed out that the article was biased and that the court of India, with ample evidence, had convicted people for act of arson, Vanamonda93, a notorious and prolific Wikipedia editor claimed that the Wikipedia policy required them to maintain "neutral point of view" – which means summarising information from "reliable sources" – and not what the courts say.

Essentially, Wikipedia, as a matter of policy, only collates information from Left media sources and does not even consider the court of India to be an authority after tens of Islamists were convicted for the attack.

The Wikipedia article mentions that the trial court convicted 31 Muslims for the burning, which was upheld by High Court. But the article still mentions that "Scholars remain sceptical about the claims of arson".

In one of the references, the Wikipedia article says, "Several other independent commentators also concluded that the fire itself was almost certainly an accident, saying that the initial cause of the conflagration was never conclusively determined. Historian Ainslie Thomas Embree stated that the official story of the attack on the train—that it was organized and carried out by people under orders from Pakistan—was entirely baseless. Scholar Martha Nussbaum has also challenged this narrative, stating that several inquiries have found that the conflagration was the result of an accident rather than a planned conspiracy".

> Several other independent commentators also concluded that the fire itself was almost certainly an accident, saying that the initial cause of the conflagration was never conclusively determined.[21][22] Historian Ainslie Thomas Embree stated that the official story of the attack on the train—that it was organized and carried out by people under orders from Pakistan—was entirely baseless.[23] Scholar Martha Nussbaum has also challenged this narrative, stating that several inquiries have found that the conflagration was the result of an accident rather than a planned conspiracy.[24]

In this regard, another discussion took place on the "Talk" page[135] of the article. One editor had removed the reference and Vanamonde93 had reinstated it.

The reason first given to the editor by Vanamonde93 was that the removal of the reference to Martha Nussbaum and her conspiracy theory of how the cause of the fire was unknown, was not "neutral".

Martha C. Nussbaum is the Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago. She had written a book about the Gujarat riots 2002 which essentially concluded that there were doubts that the Sabarmati express was burnt by a mob. Further, it peddled the same tropes and lies about Hindu fundamentalism[136].[137]

April 2014 [edit]

ⓘ Hello, I'm Vanamonde93. Wikipedia is written by people who have a wide diversity of opinions, but we try hard to make sure articles have a neutral point of view. Your recent edit to Godhra train burning seemed less than neutral to me, so I removed it for now. If you think I made a mistake, or if you have any questions, you can leave me a message on my talk page. Thank you. Vanamonde93 (talk) 16:48, 3 April 2014 (UTC) [reply]

The discussion thereafter about the reference to Nussbaum was dismissive, bullying and disingenuous.

The editor who had removed the reference tagged Vanamonde93 to say that the case of Godhra train burning had been decided by the court and perpetrators convicted and sentenced and therefore, the main peg of the article should be the conviction and what the courts said about the case.

(see screenshots below)

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[135] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Godhra_train_burning/Archive_2
[136] https://www.epw.in/journal/2007/50/book-reviews/clash-within-democracy-religious-violence-and-indias-future.html
[137] https://www.amazon.in/Clash-Within-Democracy-Religious-Violence/dp/0674030591#:~:text=Book%20overview&text=Since%20long%20before%20the%202002,%2C%20tolerance%2C%20and%20religious%20pluralism.

user:Vanamonde93 this is in response to your note on my talk page [[1] ↗] regarding my recent edit [[2] ↗]

This incident has gone through a proper due process by the police and the judiciary. And a verdict has been provided. This should be the primary narration of the article.

Regarding the theory of this American intellectual that it was result of an accident. It will be best to be removed. Such theories are not helpful, especially as part of the primary narration. Prodigyhk (talk) 00:52, 4 April 2014 (UTC)

> Please read WP:NPOV and WP:RS. As per wikipedia policy, we cannot weight the court verdict more than an academic paper. If anything, it is weighted less. The nationality of the author is irrelevant. Vanamonde93 (talk) 05:07, 4 April 2014 (UTC)
>
> > Having read WP:NPOV or WP:RS do not find any WP policy that you claim supports inclusion of this American author's opinion in the main narration.
> >
> > Based on WP:CONTEXTMATTERS in this main narration, the reports of the investigation team and judgement of the Indian court is what needs to be provided.
> >
> > If you still wish to include this American author's opinion in the main narration, provide relevant section from the cited book by this author that claims this was not terror attack and only an accident. Let us understand context and on what basis these claims are being made. What "multiple" investigations does this author refer to as having taken place that leads to this theory of it being an accident Prodigyhk (talk) 06:04, 4 April 2014 (UTC)
> >
> > > You are being obtuse. Nussbaum is a well known scholar, and her work on this issue has been cited many times. By that criterion, her views *need* to be represented as per NPOV. End of story. The reliability of the source is established by the author and the publisher. And stop referring to her as "this American author;" her nationality is utterly irrelevant to the question at hand. Vanamonde93 (talk) 16:43, 4 April 2014 (UTC)

Vanamonde93 essentially says that Wikipedia guidelines demand that less weightage be given to court judgements and more weight be given to observations by "experts". The editor then points out that nowhere does the guideline say that vanamonde93 is alleging and that "context matters" demands that the investigation is the main context of the article. Vanamonde93 then accuses the editor of being obtuse and shuts him down.

The editor then gives further context. The editor points out that the article by this "expert" only says that a large amount of inflammable was used and therefore, she does not actually endorse the "accident theory".

> Vanamonde93 Did some checking.
>
> 1. As per the publisher this book [3]↗ "Values and Violence: Intangible Aspects of Terrorism" is not written by Martha Nussbaum Here in WP it is wrongly cites Nussbaum as the author. Whoever has included this in WP has done a sloppy job.
>
> 2. Did find an article from 2003 by this American author and in page-1, states --> "Attempts to determine what really happened by reconstructing the event have shown only that a large amount of a flammable substance must have been thrown from inside the train. We will never know who threw it. " [4]📄 From this it is clear that Nussbaum's does not subscribe to "accident" theory as indicated in the lead of this WP article.
>
> We can now remove the sentence. If you have other articles by Nussbaum on the "accident" theory, please present here for review and discussion. Prodigyhk (talk) 18:09, 5 April 2014 (UTC)

After that, Vanamonde93 and others bully the editor to declare that the reference will stay and that he has no right to second guess an academic.

> Nussbaum is staying. Darkness Shines (talk) 16:59, 4 April 2014 (UTC)
>
>> You DO NOT second guess the veracity of a well-reputed academic source, published by a respected academic publisher, explicitly supporting the statement in the article. That is Wikipediam gold standard for sourcing, and you live with it. Vanamonde93 (talk) 19:20, 5 April 2014 (UTC)
>>
>>> Disagree. Pushing this American philosopher's opinions in the lead narration does not meet WP standard. Request for opinions from other editors.Prodigyhk (talk) 19:40, 5 April 2014 (UTC)
>>>
>>>> She is not in the lead. Get your facts straight. Vanamonde93 (talk) 19:48, 5 April 2014 (UTC)
>>>>
>>>>> Notice that both of you are in a major hurry to revamp the entire article to push your "accident" theory. Very unprofessional. Prodigyhk (talk) 20:12, 5 April 2014 (UTC)

In another conversation, there were questions raised about the quality of resources and the sentence which said that the causes of the fire are still disputed or that they have not been proven conclusively.

> ## although the actual causes of the fire have yet to be proven conclusively.
>
> As it can be seen the links added to support this are neither working nor do they belong to any source with credentials. more over it has already been proved in court of law so there is no point in creating a grey area which does not exist. If you want to bring back the text, please fix the link properly. and it should be from a credential source. — Preceding unsigned comment added by Gauravsaral (talk • contribs) 17:47, 12 December 2017 (UTC)
>
> > The "yet to be proven conclusively" sentence is weasel wording. Removed as 2016 police identified a matermind [14] ⬀ whereas the sources for the weasel sentence (which weren't ever properly sourced) were from 2013 at latest. Pectore^{talk} 14:55, 24 April 2018 (UTC)
> >
> > > The ndtv source shares nothing new; it's about the arrest of an alleged mastermind. Furthermore, the source does not say the individual in question was the mastermind. It says the police believe him to be. The police are not a reliable source. If you believe the current sources (which are far higher quality) are out of date, find more recent scholarly sources contradicting them. Vanamonde (talk) 14:35, 25 April 2018 (UTC)

The individual raising this question says that the reference for the doubts raised are from 2013 and in 2016, the police had identified and arrested the mastermind, therefore, the grey area created in this article should be removed.

Vanamonde93 again refuses, saying that the police is not a reliable source.

Repeatedly, Vanamonde93 refuses to acknowledge the court verdict saying that "it means very little".

> Except that Wikipedia only gives weight to independent sources, and independent scholars are the best sources we have, while court rulings count for very little. Vanamonde (talk) 16:46, 30 May 2018 (UTC)
>
> > My problem is with the phrasing. It says the actual cases are yet to be proven conclusively. Proven according to whom? Independent Scholars. This text should say as much. Ankit2 (talk) 17:34, 30 May 2018 (UTC)
> >
> > > No it shouldn't, because if there is consensus among scholars, then we say what they do in Wikipedia's voice: see WP:YESPOV. If you disagree, please find reliable sources. Also, the court judgement is a primary source, and as such deserves very little weight. Vanamonde (talk) 11:30, 1 June 2018 (UTC)

The Wikipedia article quotes the Concerned Citizens Tribunal report which ruled that concluded that the fire was an accident. This 'Tribunal' was a private group convened by Teesta Setalvad, who had tutored Gujarat riot witnesses to give false statements.

> The cause of the fire is disputed.[2] In 2003, the Concerned Citizens Tribunal concluded that the fire had been an accident.[18][19][20]

The article further quotes historians and scholars to claim the fire was an accident. Whether it was fire or accident is a matter of forensic examination, not the subject of opinion of 'scholars'.

Freedom of the Press in India

The first sentence in the Wikipedia page on "Freedom of the Press in India" is as follows:

"Freedom of the press in India is legally protected by the Amendment to the constitution of India, while the sovereignty, national integrity, and moral principles are generally protected by the law of India to maintain a hybrid legal system for independent journalism. In India, media bias or misleading information is restricted under the certain constitutional amendments as described by the country's constitution. The media crime is covered by the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which is applicable to all substantive aspects of criminal law"

This entire paragraph makes very little sense and also misrepresents the constitution of India given that there is no amendment to the constitution which legally protects freedom of the press. Freedom of the press is included in the gambit of freedom of speech and expression. Further, there is no "constitutional amendment as described by the country's constitution" which restricts media bias – this sentence essentially goes to project a misleading impression of India given that it insinuates that any editorial slant may be outlawed by the constitution itself.

Interestingly, the only reference for this entire paragraph is an opinion piece in the Washington Post headlined, "In Modi's India, journalists face bullying, criminal cases and worse". The article was written in 2018 by Annie Gowen who has a history of anti-India and anti-Hindu tweets, laden with misinformation and inaccuracies[138][139].

The next paragraph reads as follows:

Nevertheless, freedom of the press in India is subject to certain restrictions, such as defamation law, a lack of protection for whistleblowers, barriers to information access and constraints caused by public and government hostility to journalists.

There is again no reference to substantiate that the public at large is hostile towards journalists, as is the government. The only purpose this serves is to paint India in an autocratic light.

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[138] https://www.opindia.com/2018/07/racist-foreign-journalist-annie-gowen-washington-post-brazens-it-out-even-as-hindus-seek-apology-for-her-insulting-tweet/
[139] https://www.opindia.com/2018/07/hinduphobe-journalist-of-washington-post-now-tries-to-lie-about-censorship-on-media-in-kashmir/

Further in the article, The Wikipedia article strings together a bunch of opinions to pass it off as fact.

Sometimes, only news that favours the government is published by the local media, whilst news that covers the economic and political problems in the country, or criticisms of the government faces government-issued warnings. It is claimed that the print and broadcasting media carry stories on the bases of emotions or under the political pressure of the party in power,[27][28] while the domestic media outlets are claimed to support leaders' arguments.[29] Indian media is often criticized for carrying media war during military conflicts, and expressing one-sided identification with vigorous support for their interests.[30][31] Several media outlets act as cheerleaders by publishing the political agenda of the ruling party's leaders. The constitution of India protects freedom of speech and freedom of the press. However, critics state that press freedom is restrained, and the government only encourages speech that supports it and the prevailing ruling party.[32] The government is accused by critics of falsely labelling independent press with "fake news" to try to evade critical observation of the media.[33]

The Wikipedia article further says that the Indian government in 2020 had issued warnings to foreign media.

In 2020 or earlier, the government of India issued warnings against the foreign news outlets, including *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, Al Jazeera, *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *The Economist*, BBC, and *Huffington Post* for portraying India's image negatively.[34]

The reference they use for it is an Outlook article from 2020 which merely states that the foreign media did not report accurate on the Delhi Riots 2020 and the government had issued rejoinders to them[140].

The article then mentions the raids on BBC and insinuates that the raids were conducted because of an anti-Modi documentary aired by the BBC.

In February 2023, the government raided the offices of the BBC, accusing it of corruption and tax evasion, shortly after it aired a documentary (which the government banned) critical of Modi for his involvement with anti-Muslim violence.[36]

In truth, the raids had nothing to do with the BBC documentary. In February 2023, the BBC offices were surveyed by tax authorities for 3 days. After the survey, the Finance Ministry had issued a statement explaining the depth of tax fraud committed by the BBC.

Without naming BBC, the statement said that a survey action under section 133A of the Income tax Act, 1961(the Act) was carried out at the business premises of group entities of a prominent international Media Company at Delhi and Mumbai.

The statement noted that BBC is engaged in the business of development of content in English, Hindi and various other Indian languages; advertisement sales and market support services, etc in India.

The statement said that the income/profits shown by various group entities under BBC India do not match their scale of operations in India, as the quantity of content in India is substantial. In the raid by the Income tax department, which has been described as a survey,

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[140] https://www.outlookindia.com/national/india-news-sarkar-unhappy-with-india-as-seen-from-abroad-news-302944

several pieces of evidence were found that show that tax has not been paid on certain remittances which have not been disclosed as income in India by the foreign entities of the group.

The ministry further informed that the survey revealed that BBC India had made remittances to its foreign offices for utilising the services of seconded employees, or temporary employees sent from overseas. While such remittances are subjected to withholding tax, BBC avoided it.

Further, the I-T department also found discrepancies and inconsistencies with regard to Transfer Pricing documentation. Such discrepancies relate to the level of relevant Function, Asset and Risk (FAR) analysis, incorrect use of comparable which are applicable to determine the correct Arm's Length Price (ALP) and inadequate revenue apportionment, among others, the statement said.

The ministry has said that the survey operation has resulted in the unearthing of crucial evidence by way of statements of employees, digital evidence and documents which will be further examined in due course. "It is pertinent to state that statements of only those employees were recorded whose role was crucial including those connected to, primarily, finance, content development and other production-related functions," the ministry said.

Interestingly, while the 'Liberal' ecosystem in India had tried to defend the BBC and blame the Modi government for conducting the survey at the BBC premises, the broadcasting company has a notable past of tax evasion and fraud. For example, Thousands of public employees, including those at the BBC, were not paying their taxes at the source, according to a 2012 report from the public accounts committee in the United Kingdom (UK).

There were, at that time, also reports claiming that the BBC has agreed to cough up Rs 40 crores to make up for their tax evasion over a period of almost 6 years – from 2016 to 2022.

The Wikipedia article, of course, leaves out the several attacks against journalists that the Left does not agree with. While it mentions imagined threats by Sagarika Ghose and Ravish Kumar, it does not mention how the Congress alliance govt in Maharashtra arrested and kept Arnab Goswami in jail for weeks over a case that was later dismissed by the court.

> Several journalists such as Sagarika Ghose, Ravish Kumar have said that they were subjected to harassment, intimidation including death and rape threats when they were skeptical of the Bharatiya Janata Party government. Bobby Ghosh, the editor of the Hindustan Times resigned in September 2018 shortly after the Prime Minister Narendra Modi reportedly met Shobhana Bhartia, the owner of the newspaper.[37] The incident occurred after Ghosh opened a portal called the Hate Tracker on the newspaper, a database for tracking violent crimes motivated by race, religion and sexual orientation. The database was later taken down.[38][39]

Further, the Wikipedia article also talks of Bobby Ghosh and passes off speculation and opinion about the reasons of his exit from Hindustan Times as a fact. The Hate Tracker that

Ghosh had started was actually taken down because wild inaccuracies were pointed out in the tracker and not because there was any government pressure[141].[142]

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the ire of the Left and the Islamist since the beginning of his political career, sans truth. That bias is clearly also reflected in the Wikipedia page of the leader.

At the outset, the Wikipedia page outright lies about PM Modi's marriage.

> He was introduced to the RSS at the age of eight. At the age of 18, he was married to Jashodaben Modi, whom he abandoned soon after, only publicly acknowledging her four decades later when legally required to do so. Modi became a full-time worker for

PM Modi did not "abandon" his wife. The truth is that it was a child marriage which was forced upon him by his parents[143]. The Wikipedia article, perhaps deliberately, hides the fact that it was a child marriage.

The Wikipedia article then says that Narendra Modi's Gujarat government was "considered complicit" in the 2002 Gujarat Riots.

> hierarchy, becoming general secretary in 1998.[b] In 2001, Modi was appointed Chief Minister of Gujarat and elected to the legislative assembly soon after. His administration is considered complicit in the 2002 Gujarat riots,[c] and has been criticised for its management of the crisis. According to official records,

The truth is that the Court had acquitted Narendra Modi and found no evidence to suggest that the government was complicit. This fact is mention later in the article, however, the Wikipedia article relies on opinion pieces to claim that he was "considered complicit".

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[141] https://www.opindia.com/2017/08/hindustan-times-hate-tracker-a-classic-case-of-how-media-peddles-an-agenda/
[142] https://www.opindia.com/2017/10/what-has-happened-to-hindustan-times-database-hate-tracker/
[143] https://www.indiatoday.in/india/west/story/narendra-modi-marriage-jashodaben-188381-2014-04-10

In the 2014 Indian general election, Modi led the BJP to a parliamentary majority, the first for a party since 1984. His administration increased direct foreign investment, and it reduced spending on healthcare, education, and social-welfare programmes. Modi began a high-profile sanitation campaign, controversially initiated a demonetisation of banknotes and introduced the Goods and Services Tax, and weakened or abolished environmental and labour laws. Modi's administration launched the 2019 Balakot airstrike against an alleged terrorist training camp in Pakistan. The airstrike failed, [15][16] but the action had nationalist appeal.[17] Modi's party won the 2019 general election which followed.[18]

The Wikipedia article then goes on to make several claims about the national spending on healthcare, education etc without any references.

Toeing the Pakistan line, the Wikipedia article claims that the Balakot airstrike was a failure based on dubious sources, however, this is not true. The Indian Army explained in details how the Balakot airstrike was carried about[144], with an admission from Pakistani diplomat himself as well[145].

(section continues to the next page)

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144 https://www.opindia.com/2020/02/balakot-airstrikes-pakistan-pulwama-jaish-terror-camps-indian-air-force/
145 https://www.cnbctv18.com/india/balakot-strike-killed-300-terrorists-says-former-pakistani-diplomat-7954241.htm

In its second term, his administration revoked the special status of Jammu and Kashmir,[19][20] and introduced the Citizenship Amendment Act, prompting widespread protests, and spurring the 2020 Delhi riots in which Muslims were brutalised and killed by Hindu mobs.[21][22][23] Three controversial farm laws led to sit-ins by farmers across the country, eventually causing their formal repeal. Modi oversaw India's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which, according to the World Health Organization's estimates, 4.7 million Indians died.[24][25] In the 2024 general election, Modi's party lost its majority in the lower house of Parliament and formed a government leading the National Democratic Alliance coalition.[26][27]

Under Modi's tenure, India has experienced democratic backsliding, or the weakening of democratic institutions, individual rights, and freedom of expression.[28][29][f] As prime minister, he has received consistently high approval ratings.[35][36][37] Modi has been described as engineering a political realignment towards right-wing politics. He remains a controversial figure domestically and internationally, over his Hindu nationalist beliefs and handling of the Gujarat riots, which have been cited as evidence of a majoritarian and exclusionary social agenda.[g]

The entire article regurgitates the lies which have already been extensively debunked, however, the counterargument to these false assertions are not added in the article. As explained before, this is because any publication which is likely to publish the counter to such falsities against India and Hindus have been mostly blacklisted by the Left editors of Wikipedia.

The entire Wikipedia article essentially relies on conjectures, conspiracy theories and opinions by Leftists and Islamists of various hues. For example, there is an entire section on "Hindutva" in the Narendra Modi Wikipedia page.

The activities of a number of Hindu nationalist organisations increased in scope after Modi's appointment as prime minister, sometimes with the government's support.[267][268] These activities included a Hindu religious conversion programme, a campaign against the supposed Islamic practice of "Love Jihad" (an Islamophobic[274] conspiracy theory)[269]:226–227[275]:1–2[276] and attempts to celebrate Nathuram Godse, the assassin of Mahatma Gandhi, by members of the right-wing organisation Hindu Mahasabha.[277][278] Government officials, including the Home Minister, defended the conversion programmes.[217]

The entire paragraph is that of an opinion and the references mentioned are also opinion pieces published in The New York Times, The Hindu, Atlantic etc. The paragraph specifically calls "Love Jihad" – a phenomenon where Hindu women are targeted on the basis of their religious identity a conspiracy theory – while claiming that Hindu conversions are rampant – making it sound like the conversions are based on coercion. This assertion inverts the situation where actually, Hindu women are assaulted and forced to convert to Islam, many times, with the Muslim men changing their religious identity to Hindu to trap the women while conversions to Hinduism are few and far between, always voluntary.

While claiming that historians with dubious records are being appointed by the Modi government, the Wikipedia article, by name, relies on the opinions of Leftists like Nandini Sundar who openly sympathise and whitewash the crimes of separatists and armed militants like the Naxals.

In 2019, the Modi administration passed a citizenship law that provides a route to Indian citizenship for persecuted religious minorities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis or Christians,[284][285] but does not grant eligibility to Muslims.[286][287][288] This was first time religion had been overtly used as a criterion for citizenship under Indian law; it attracted global criticism and prompted widespread protests that were halted by the COVID-19 pandemic.[282][288][289] Counter-demonstrations against the protests developed into the 2020 Delhi riots, caused chiefly by Hindu mobs attacking Muslims.[290][291] Fifty-three people were killed in the protests, two-thirds of whom were Muslim.[292][293][294][295][296] On 5 August 2020, Modi visited Ayodhya after the Supreme Court in 2019 ordered contested land in Ayodhya to be handed to a trust to build a Hindu temple and ordered the government to give alternative 5 acres (2.0 ha) of land to the Sunni Waqf Board for the purpose of building a mosque.[297] Modi became the first PM to visit temples at Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanuman Garhi.[298]

Thereafter, the Wikipedia page spreads falsities about CAA, a sensitive subject in India given that its passage saw Islamists plan and execute violence specifically targeted at the Hindu community. The article misrepresents that CAA made religious the basis for citizenship. CAA was meant to expedite citizenship for persecuted minorities of neighbouring Islamic nations who were already living as refugees in India. It is obvious that a bill meant to give refuge to

persecuted minorities from Islamic nations would not grant citizenship under it to Muslims – the majority population in those countries. Further, it is also not mentioned that people have other ways and means to apply for citizenship in India – include Muslims.

All non-citizens are equally covered under the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946, The Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920 and the rules / orders made thereunder, and there is no separate rule for Muslim non-citizens. All legal migrants, including Muslims, can acquire citizenship as per the prescribed norms[146].

The article also lies about the details of the Delhi Riots 2020 – a subject which has already been discussed in a separate section.

'Jai Shri Ram' – defamation of a belief

Jai Shri Ram is a religious chant sacred to Hindus. It essentially means "Glory to Shri Ram", a revered deity in Hinduism. The Wikipedia page, however, makes disparaging remarks based on motivated media reports.

The opening paras of the Wikipedia article itself disparage the religious chant claiming it to be used as a war-cry to perpetrate communal violence against Hindus.

Jai Shri Ram[a] (IAST: *Jaya Śrī Rāma*) is an expression in Indic languages, translating as "Glory to Lord Rama" or "Victory to Lord Rama".[6] The proclamation has been used by Hindus as a symbol of adhering to Hindu faith,[7] or for projection of varied faith-centered emotions.[8][9][10]

The expression was used by the Indian Hindu nationalist organisations Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and their allies, which embraced the slogan in the late 20th century as a tool for increasing the visibility of Hinduism in public spaces, before going on to use it as a battle cry. The slogan has since been employed in connection with the perpetration of communal violence against people of other faiths. [11][24]

The sources referenced to make this outlandish claim are mostly opinion pieces from Scroll, EPW, NYT and authors like Christophe Jaffrelot and Nandita Menon.

One of the cases that they mention to "substantiate" their assertion that Jai Shree Ram is a communal war cry is of a Muslim man being lynching by Muslims for chanting Jai Shree Ram.

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[146] https://www.opindia.com/2020/02/muslims-refugees-can-continue-to-get-citizenship-as-per-provisions-of-citizenship-act-caa-does-not-prevent-that-government-clarifies-in-lok-sabha/

- After the BJP's victory in the 2022 Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly election, a 25 year old Muslim man, Babar Ali from UP's Kushinagar district was lynched and killed by the members of his own community for supporting BJP. His family members said that Babar was returning from his shop when he chanted 'Jai Shri Ram' and was attacked by some local Muslims.[69][70]

The incident took place in the Kathgharhi village of Ramkola police station in the Kushinagar district of Uttar Pradesh, where the youth named Babar was lynched because he campaigned for Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and distributed sweets after the Yogi Adityanath the government was formed. Babar was severely beaten up by his neighbours and relatives on 20th March 2022. The youth was referred to the district hospital and then to Lucknow where he died during treatment on Sunday 27th March 2022.

The Muslims in the area were angry with Babar even after his death. When the body of the deceased reached the village, people were enraged. People refused to perform the last rites of the body. The administrative staff also became active considering the seriousness of the case. The local MLA PN Pathak also reached the spot. After the assurance of MLA PN Pathak and administrative officials, the family agreed to perform the last rites. The area MLA himself shouldered the body of the deceased Babar. In fact, after the formation of the BJP government in UP on March 10, Babar had distributed sweets in the entire village.

The family members of the deceased Babar said that the people living in the neighbourhood were angry because Babar was campaigning for the BJP. Many times Babur was warned that he should not campaign for the BJP. Babar asked for security from the Ramkola police station to several officials, but his plea was not heard. As the Ramkola police station did not respond to him, the goons were emboldened and they beat Babar badly and then threw him down from the roof. Seriously injured in the attack, he died during treatment at the hospital. After this, Babar's wife has lodged a case against the accused at Ramkola police station.

SDM Varun Pandey, who rushed to the spot, said the case is being investigated, the accused will be arrested and strict action will be taken against those who are guilty. BJP MLA PN Pathak said the accused will not be spared at any cost. The SDM also said that the victim had complained about death threats, but no action was taken at that time. He added that an FIR has been registered, and they are investigating the matter.

If anything, this incident shows how individuals are being persecuted for chanting Jai Shree Ram and asserting their political and religious agency. In this case, the victim was a Muslim, lynched by Muslims who harboured specific animosity towards Hindus and their religious and political expression. This incident, far from proving Jai Shree Ram as a war-cry, proves that Islamists are persecuting those who express devotion to Lord Ram[147].

While making the Wikipedia article on Jai Shri Ram political and insulting towards Hindus, the article fails to mention that there have been several instances where fake news was spread about Muslims being forced to chant Jai Shri Ram.

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[147] https://www.opindia.com/2022/03/muslim-youth-lynched-in-uttar-pradesh-for-celebrating-bjps-victory/

Here is a list of 20 incidents where fake news was spread about Muslims being persecuted for not chanting Jai Shree Ram[148]:

Alt News' cofounder Mohammed Zubair communalised a petty fight to defame 'Jai Shri Ram'

On Monday (June 14), Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair took to Twitter to claim that an elderly Muslim man, Abdul Samad Saifi, in Ghaziabad was assaulted and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. While speaking about the matter, Abdul Samad Saifi had also claimed that he was locked inside a room and brutally thrashed by miscreants who forced him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, the truth is far from this Hinduphobic narrative weaved by Zubair and the 'victim'. The video of the assault does not contain any audio, which can verify the claim that Saifi was coerced into chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' or 'Ram Ram'. Moreover, the victim had alleged that a gun was used by the accused to intimidate him although it wasn't visible in the video footage.

The Uttar Pradesh police had also clarified that the accused and the victim knew each other prior to the incident and that it was a case of personal rivalry. The cops did not mention any reference to religious slogans in their statement.

Fake communal angle in Asif Khan murder case

Last month, Haryana Police had ruled out any communal angle in the murder of Muslim youth Asif Khan from Mewat. As per reports, Asif, along with his two cousins was returning from his sister's house when he was allegedly attacked by a group of men and was beaten to death. However, soon after the report of his death poured in, some media houses claimed that he was forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' before being killed, thereby giving it a communal angle.

Kerala-based portal Maktoob Media claimed that Asif was 'forced to chant Jai Shri Ram' and referred to the religious slogan as 'warcry of Hindu nationalist militants'. Sharjeel Usmani, the Newslaundry columnist, also used the unfortunate crime in Haryana to peddle hatred against the Hindu community. However, Maktoob Media offered no evidence to prove this fact. In fact, even the initial statement of one of the witnesses said how they were attacked by a group where most men were known to them.

Eventually it turned out to be a case of internal political rivalry and there was no communal angle in it.

Outrage over 'Jai Shri Ram' written on walls of a mosque in Bhainsa, Telangana

On May 26, communal tensions erupted in Bhainsa, Telangana. Some members of Muslim community led riots against the Hindu community when they saw "Jai Shri Ram" inscribed

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[148] https://www.opindia.com/2021/06/list-incidents-jai-shri-ram-fake-hate-crimes/#google_vignette

on the walls of a mosque. Later, it turned out that the culprits were Muslims. One of the individuals were identified as Mohammed Abdul Kaeef and the other was a minor. Both the accused lived in the near vicinity of the Masjid. The police revealed that the minor boy wrote 'Jai Shri Ram' after being instructed to do the same by the older of the two.

Apart from the CCTV footage, the handwriting also matches with the suspect. The accused have confessed to the crime, the police officer said.

Liberals peddle fake narrative that Tanishq showroom was attacked by 'Jai Shri Ram' chanting Hindu mob

Last year, after the Tanishq showroom in Gandhidham, Kutch in Gujarat issued an apology to Hindus for the controversial advertisement glorifying 'love jihad', the ecosystem came together to build a narrative that the showroom was 'attacked' by a 'mob' and the owners 'forced' to put up apology.

Basically, NDTV created the narrative of the showroom being attacked, which the leftist ecosystem eagerly lapped up. Screenshots were shared and people made to believe 'Hindus intolerant of inter-faith marriage ads'.

Alt news co-founder Mohammed Zubair also jumped onto the bandwagon to claim that a mob chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' attacked the Tanishq showroom.

OpIndia then wrote in details how this news was completely devoid of facts and obviously peddled with a sole aim to slander Hindus. We mentioned how the Kutch Police had confirmed that there was no attack on the showroom. Moreover, the Tanishq showroom employees at Kutch's Gandhidham were absolutely clueless about the 'mob attack'.

The truth was that, contrary to the Hinduphobic cabal's portrayal, a few people did sit outside the showroom peacefully and chanted "Jai Shri Ram", expressing their disapproval against the Tanishq ad.

Leftist media peddles Muslim cab driver was 'lynched to death' and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', Noida police refutes claim

In September 2020, the leftist media worked overtime to attribute a communal angle to the death of a Muslim cab driver named Aftab Alam claiming that he was lynched to death by a communal mob after forcing him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Leftist propaganda website like TheWire and Amar Ujala claimed that Aftab Alam was made to chant Jai Shri Ram.

These fake narrative was soon busted by the Noida police who confirmed that they had examined the audio recording and the victim, Aftab Alam, was not asked to chant Jai Shri Ram.

Muslim auto driver in Rajasthan thrashed by drunk miscreants for tobacco and money, leftist media gives communal angle

On August 9, 2020, a 52-year-old Muslim auto driver named Gapphar Ahmad had reportedly claimed that he was thrashed by miscreants in Sikar in Rajasthan. He alleged that the assaulters forced him to chant slogans such as 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Modi Zindabad.'

Several media organizations including Jansatta, Aaj Tak and Navbharat Times gave the incident a communal spin.

The truth was that some drunk miscreants had asked the auto driver for tobacco, who refused. This led to an altercation between the auto driver and the miscreants, who chased the auto driver and beat him up.

The fact behind a Nepali man tonsured and forced to shout 'Jai Shri Ram' and 'Nepal PM Murdabad'

The July 2020 incident of a Nepali man being tonsured and forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' had created quite a storm across the nation. After media outlets blamed 'Hindu outfits' for the incident, it came to light that the man responsible for performing the said act on the Nepali man was one Arun Pathak, who belonged to the Shiv Sena, currently a 'secular' party after its recent alliance with the Congress and the NCP.

Later, the Varanasi Police also confirmed that the Nepali man in question was an Indian citizen.

Furthermore, it has now been confirmed that the whole incident was a pre-planned act. As per reports, the so-called Nepali youth, identified as Dharmendra Singh, was contacted by Arun Pathak's men 16th July and was told that his services are required for a couple of hours at Ganga Ghat. He was told that there is some event where he would have tonsure his head and chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. For his services, he would be given Rs. 1000.

The Godhra 'hate crime' lie peddled by mainstream and digital media outlets proved untrue

On August 2, 2019, many mainstream media outlets had reported that 3 youth in Gujarat's Godhra was assaulted by a group of miscreants the previous night for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram'.

As per reports, a complaint lodged with the Godhara A Division police by one Siddiq Abdul Salam, a resident of Mohamadi mohalla in Godhara town, six unknown miscreants assaulted his son Samir (17) and two of his friends, Salman and Sohail for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, the Godhra police had stated that after a detailed examination of all available CCTV footage and an inquiry, it has been revealed that Siddiq was lying. As reported by Desh Gujarat, the police investigation confirmed that the clash had nothing to do with chanting of any religious slogan.

Despite the truth coming out in the open, the leftist media shamelessly did not bother to issue any clarification and apology for peddling the misleading 'hate crime' narrative.

The July 2019 Chandauli fake 'hate crime'

In July 2019, a 17-year-old Muslim boy from Chandauli, UP, named Khalid Ansari had allegedly set himself on fire in a dargah. A resident of Township of Lohia Nagar town of Thana Syedaraja he had claimed that he was set on fire for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' on 28 July. After the boy succumbed to his injuries, many media houses started peddling the conspiracy theory that Khalid was a victim of hate crime.

However, the Police, after investigating the case, examining the CCTV footage and talking to eyewitnesses had concluded that Khalid himself had set himself on fire.

When media used maliciously edited video to allege that BJP minister forced Muslim MLA to chant Jai Shri Ram

'Nationalist' channel Times Now has joined the rank of left-liberals in peddling the fake narrative that Hindus are forcing Muslims to chant Jai Shri Ram. They used a heavily edited video in July 2019 to accuse a BJP minister in Jharkhand of spreading hate in the name of Hindutva.

Reporting on an incident that happened outside Jharkhand assembly, Times Now alleges that minister CP Singh crossed the line when he forced Congress MLA Irfan Ansari to chant Jai Shri Ram. The same allegation with the same video clip was published by other media houses also, including the usual suspects who are expected to present such distorted news to peddle their agenda. All of them claimed that the BJP minister forced Ansari to chant Jai Shri Ram.

However, this claim turned out to be false. It was cleared that CP Singh asked Ansari to chant Jai Shri Ram only because Ansari was claiming that Ram and the slogan belong to everyone, not just BJP.

When Sheikh Aamer faked 'forced to chant Jai Shri Ram' story to get applauded in the community

On July 23, 2019, another fake incident of 'hate crimes' made it to the front page of many newspapers. In this case, the alleged victim Shiekh Aamer reportedly contrived a story that the 4 youths he had an altercation with had forced him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan and filed his complaint on this basis at the police station to seek grandstanding from members of his community.

However, barely a day after filing a complaint that some persons had forcibly asked him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', the alleged victim Aamer went back on his statement. Aamer conceded that he fabricated the story of 'Jai Shri Ram' slogan being enforced upon him to raise his

stature among his community members and teach those who dare to challenge people from his community a lesson.

How a Muslim man in Aurangabad transformed an altercation due to personal enmity into 'hate crime' to malign Hindus

One Imran Ismail Patel, a hotel employee in Aurangabad had filed a complaint on July 19, last year, against a group of 10 people alleging that a mob intercepted him while he was returning to his house and forced him to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' following which he was thrashed by them.

However, according to the police, the preliminary investigation revealed that the incident is being unnecessarily communalised and the evidence suggests that the scuffle occurred because of personal enmity.

The eye-witnesses who had come to Imran's rescue had put paid to the claims made by Imran that he was forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. Instead, they had asserted that the incident was a result of a personal feud.

Another 'hate crime' in Bhagpat which turned out to be fake

On July 14, 2019, several media houses had reported that one Imam (Muslim cleric) called Imlaq-Ur-Rehman was assaulted by men and was made to chant Jai Shri Ram. The report also mentioned that his beard was pulled by the assailants and that the police has booked 12 people in connection with this case.

OpIndia reached out to Baghpat SP who has categorically rubbished the claims and asserted that Imam Imlaq-Ur-Rehman was not made to chant Jai Shri Ram, his beard was not pulled and there was no religious undertone to this assault. He asserted that this was a case of a petty brawl between some men and the Imam.

Unnao madrasa student injured in a fight over cricket, not for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram

Yet another news of Muslims forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' and beaten for not doing so has turned out to be fake. The Imam of the Jama Masjid in Unnao had warned of 'unprecedented action' if the Hindu boys who were involved in the fight over cricket match were not arrested.

He had even claimed that the madrasa boys were beaten up by the Hindu boys after they were asked to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. But later police had found that there was no religious angle to the incident.

According to the enquiry conducted by UP police, it was found that a fight had broken out between two groups while playing cricket. In a press conference where ADG (LO) P V Ramaswamy and IG (LO) Praveen Kumar were present, they denied that anybody was forced to chant any religious slogan, and said that it was a fight between two groups on the playground that had turned violent.

News of Muslim auto driver thrashed for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' turned out to be fake

On July 5 2019, reports emerged that a Muslim auto driver in Kanpur, Aatib, was allegedly thrashed for not chanting Jai Shri Ram. It was reported that he was allegedly locked up inside a public toilet by three people for refusing to chant 'Jai Shree Ram'.

The Telegraph had reported that Aatib was asked by the customers who hired his auto to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' after they refused to pay the fare. Congress mouthpiece Navjivan, had also reported how three youths mercilessly thrashed Aatib for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. In fact, there were reports that communal tensions have escalated in the area because rumours were floated on WhatsApp that Aatib had died after being thrashed for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, the allegations that Aatib was forced to chant Jai Shri Ram are false. According to Police, the men who boarded Aatib's auto were drunk and matters escalated when they refused to pay the fare and got into a heated argument.

SP South Raveena Tyagi had then confirmed to OpIndia that the news of Aatib being forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' was false.

Madrasa teacher in Delhi not hit by a car for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

The incidents of fake 'hate crimes' have become increasingly common. On June 21, 2019, a controversy had erupted after a Muslim man had claimed that he was allegedly hit by a car after he refused to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'. A madrasa teacher named Mohammed Momin had alleged that he was allegedly abused and then run over by the car as he refused to chant Hindu religious slogans at Delhi's Rohini Sector.

However, an eyewitness at the spot has now rubbished the claims of Mohammed Momin. As per the police report, the eyewitness during the preliminary investigation did not substantiate the allegations.

In Cooch Behar a Muslim man forces another to chant 'Jai Shri Ram', liberals huddle up to hold Hindu accountable

On June 29, 2019, a video went viral, where a Muslim man was seen doing sit-ups, while holding his ears, and was allegedly being forced to chant "Jai Shree Ram". Another Muslim man has been arrested in connection with the case. According to media reports, Apsi Miyan was arrested for making another Muslim man, Agsar Ali, chant 'Jai Shri Ram' forcefully in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. Despite facts being there out in the open, it was not surprising that the 'liberal-secular' gang had begun demonising Hindus for the act.

However, before blaming Hindus, these anti-Hindus should have considered how Hindus would get a Muslim to chant "Jai Shri Ram" in a place like West Bengal's Cooch Behar, where under Mamata Banerjee's regime they themselves have to think twice before chanting the slogan.

Karimnagar: No, 'Majnu' was not beaten up for refusing to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

In the beginning of June, 2019, a former AIMIM leader took to Twitter to claim that a Muslim man was beaten up in Karimnagar, Telangana. He alleged that the Muslim man was beaten up for not chanting 'Jai Shri Ram'.

However, Commissioner of Police, Karimnagar, Telangana State, shared a video of the Muslim man where he clarified that he was beaten up over a personal issue and there was no communal side to it.

Barkat Alam 'attacked', forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'

In a similar incident reported from Gurugram, Haryana on May 31, 2019, a Muslim man named Barkat Alam had alleged that his skull cap was thrown away after a group of Hindus had attacked him. He had even claimed that he was forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Prime-time debates happened around him since the incident took place right after Narendra Modi was re-elected as Prime Minister with a thumping mandate. However, the CCTV recording revealed how it was actually a scuffle between few men and the argument turned into push and shoving in which his cap fell down. The CCTV footage showed how no one had deliberately removed his skullcap. And how even his initial complaint never mentioned that he was forced to chant 'Jai Shri Ram'.

Criminal incident given a communal spin, Rajasthan in June 2017

The incident happened in Nagpur district of Rajasthan where a group of men, some hiding their faces, were recorded on camera abusing and assaulting a woman with plastic pipes and forcing her to chant religious slogans. It was not clear who recorded the incident, but the video clearly showed that the men were forcing the woman to chant "Allah" and "Jai Shri Ram".

However, people from expected quarters conveniently ignored the 'Allah' part and focused only on the 'Jai Shri Ram' part to give the entire incident a communal spin even though the incident was purely criminal and was horrifying enough even without the communal spin.

It is evident, therefore, that the Wikipedia page on Jai Shri Ram has been deliberately kept one sided – an editorial decision.

In fact, if one looks at the 'talk' page, it is revealed that there was a section someone had added which spoke about the usage is in such fake cases, however, it was removed – the move justified due to flimsy reasons by 'Kautilya3', the very editor booked in Manipur for creating strife.

Usage in false cases

I just went through the article's history and the talk page history and found that the chant's "usage in fake cases" section was removed because of lack of WP: RS. I did some research and and found several sources for the fake cases and all are Reliable sources. So I thought they might be helpful here.

- Times of India 🗗
- The Quint 🗗
- DNA 🗗
- Hindustan Times 🗗
- Times of India 🗗
- Firstpost 🗗
- Times Now 🗗

I hope they are helpful.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 13:56, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

> Krish!, what changes do you propose? SerChevalerie (talk) 14:38, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>> SerChevalerie I am not proposing any changes. I am saying this section should be re-added to the article to show that some incident about this slogan are false. This section was there in the article like few weeks ago but was removed because of lack of RS but now we have many.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 14:57, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>> WP:VNOTSUFF. You need to make a case for including any negative or false information because that is not what Wikipedia is about. We don't have enough information about the true cases as yet. So adding stuff about "false" cases would be WP:UNDUE. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 14:54, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>> By this logic, the whole "use in violent events" should be removed because these are very few events compared to the history of this slogan as per Wikipedia guidelines. And [this 🗗] says otherwise.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 14:57, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>>> There is no history of the slogan other than in violence. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 15:08, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>>> Said who? Your and my views does not hold any candle to wikipedia. It runs on several rules and regulations and not what you or me think.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 15:12, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>>>> @Krish!:, Kautilya3 outlined the sources in "regarding lead" section. Give it a read. TryKid [*dubious – discuss*] 15:16, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>>>>> TryKid I have read everything and it is time this section should be added as one of the aspects of the "violent events" that is being talked about in the article.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 15:19, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>>>>> I would like to invite Newslinger to look at this re-adding request of the section since he was involved in the discussion when it was removed because of lack of reliable sources.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 15:50, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

> Krish!, you say that you are not proposing any changes and yet you insist that it should be added in the article. Further, you talk about the slogan's "history" but cite no RS for the same. SerChevalerie (talk) 16:09, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>> SerChevalerie Seems like I did a mistake of commenting on this article as it's obvious you people don't want any help. As I said I have no interest in editing this article or any political or religious article. I only came here after I saw it trending on Twitter and thought to give my opinion. I have given sources for what you guys wanted few weeks ago and it's up to you if you want to use it or not. I won't be commenting here after this.**Krish** | *Talk To Me* 16:23, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

A murder

From the talk page, it becomes evident that the section on such fake Jai Shri Ram crimes was removed because apparently, there were no "reliable sources" to prove these cases. A user proceeds then to provide "reliable" sources (which are essentially some Left sources that Wikipedia accepts).

Kautilya3, who has been booked in Manipur for inciting violence and disaffection then justifies the removal saying that there are not enough verifiable sources to prove "positive" positions in this article – which is crimes driven by the Jai Shri Ram chant – and therefore – negative position – fake news – cannot be added.

One has to then ask why this page takes the slant that it does. In the end, the user who provided sources to ensure the article could be made less bias gives up, saying that it is evident to him that editors have an agenda.

In another conversation about the fake Jai Shree Ram cases, the concerns are dismissed citing flimsy reasons yet again.

Regarding "fake cases" section.

A new section is added. But it has no true sources. This new facthunt site seem lie full unreliable sources and a political bias. Should it be allowed? If we have true sources regarding this, then the section should be added but not with these unreliable sources. But this facthunt and other citations seems fishy. Edward Zigma (talk) 17:49, 5 March 2020 (UTC)

~~WP:RSN is the best place to go to if you are doubtful about the reliability of a source. Bharatiya29 14:41, 6 March 2020 (UTC)~~ — has been blocked from editing. --*KartikeyaS* (*talk*) 07:27, 26 March 2020 (UTC)

A few thoughts on this:

1) "facthunt . in" is not a reputable news source. It is a crowdsourced website, and a cursory glance through it shows that it has a very clear political bias.

2) When we include a section like this, even if we do it with the intent of providing a balanced point of view, we essentially minimize the damage that is described in the "Usage in Violent Incidents" section. Even a cursory glance through these two sections shows us that the scale of incidents described in these two sections differ enormously. The "Usage in Violent Incidents" section describes literal pogroms with dozens dead. The "Fake cases" section includes some limited instances where it is alleged that a victim claimed that a crowd used the slogan when it was not.

3) If these minor incidents are included in "Fake cases", then every similar minor incident in which a mob actually did harass somebody using the slogan must be included in the "Usage in Violent Incidents" section in order to keep this fair. I am not suggesting that we do this because the length of the article would become enormous. Rather, we should remove the "Fake cases" section because describing these incidents does not inform the reader in any appreciable way about the usage of the slogan.

4) Clearly, the "Fake cases" section does not belong on this Wikipedia page, at least in its current stage of development. I recommend deletion. If necessary, all relevant information in this section can be added to the "Usage in Violent Incidents" section with a simple sentence: "There have been some reports of non-violent incidents being associated with the slogan, in which the allegations were found to be false". Even in this case, better sources must be inserted.

I am taking the action of removing the "facthunt . in" sources and adding citation needed tags to the section, because that is the minimum necessary action that should happen while we discuss this. Postaltoad (talk) —Preceding undated comment added 17:45, 17 March 2020 (UTC)

Postaltoad would you mind editing from your actual account? *KartikeyaS* (*talk*) 07:26, 26 March 2020 (UTC)

Fact Hunt (facthunt.in), according to its self-admission ⤤, was rejected from the International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN) in March 2020. Fact Hunt is a questionable source. I am unsure about the reliability of The Logical Indian (thelogicalindian.com). — *Newslinger* talk 07:28, 15 April 2020 (UTC)

I've started a noticeboard discussion on the reliability of The Logical Indian at WP:RSN § The Logical Indian for Jai Shri Ram. — *Newslinger* talk 07:41, 15 April 2020 (UTC)

Even if *The Logical Indian* were to be a reliable source in general, the particular article being used here ⤤ is entirely dependent on facthunt.in. So it cannot be accepted, that too for a huge section making a BIG DEAL and forming roughly half the page! -- Kautilya3 (talk) 09:54, 15 April 2020 (UTC)

I've removed the content from The Logical Indian, as it was determined to be unreliable at Wikipedia:Reliable sources/Noticeboard/Archive 290 § The Logical Indian for Jai Shri Ram. I've also removed the Aurangabad allegation, as the part that pertains to the section ("he admitted that he had fabricated the story") was unsourced. The remaining incidents in the "Fake cases alleging usage of *Jai Shri Ram*" are undue weight, as they are minor events with no significant consequences cited in a short listicle. — *Newslinger* talk 03:59, 21 April 2020 (UTC)

In this section, a clearly fake account (Postaltoad) lists down why the source mentioned for the fake Jai Shri Ram crimes is not reliable. Further, the account claims that the instances where either Muslims or sympathetic media blatantly lied about involvement of Jai Shree

Ram in the crime are "minor incidents" and therefore must not be added – making a case for the removal of the section completely.

Thereafter, Kautilya3, the very man booked in Manipur, says that even if the Logical Indian was a "reliable source", the section on fake crimes attributed to Jai Shri Ram should not be added because it just makes a "BIG DEAL" out of minor instances.

Newslinger – another prolific Leftist who has been involved in several such bias articles – says that the section has been removed because of the unreliability of the source and because it is given the subject undue weight in the article.

In another conversation, Kautilya3 says that fake cases are of no interest to "US" because Wikipedia is not a fact-checking website. Newslinger goes further, claiming that the co-founder of Wikipedia is also, not a reliable source.

> False cases are of no interest to us. Only true cases are. We are not a "fact-checking" website. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 14:25, 1 August 2020 (UTC)
>
>> Exactly those false cases were examined and fact checked by the media publications/police etc. Wikipedia guidelines say that all sides of views should be included in articles and ignoring this side is a violation of Wikipedia guidelines. I am appalled to hear this from you since this was a section just a few weeks ago but was removed because of lack of RS but know we have and you are saying it cannot be added? KRISH | TALK TO ME 14:48, 1 August 2020 (UTC)
>>
>>> Krish!, you have opened a separate discussion for this topic, let's discuss it there instead of hijacking this thread. SerChevalerie (talk) 14:50, 1 August 2020 (UTC)
>
> this is not a war cry ... its a mantra recited by hindus for spiritual purpose. why this bias towards hindus by Wikipedia Nemish1p (talk) 00:44, 2 August 2020 (UTC)
>
> Larry Sanger: I hate to break it to you #Wikipedia fanbois: "consensus" is not possible on Wikipedia. It stopped being something that can be taken seriously, I'd say, in 2002. You really do need to develop a new and better way of deciding disputes; "consensus" is silly propaganda. Parlebourbon3 (talk) 06:04, 2 August 2020 (UTC)
>
>> Larry Sanger isn't exactly a credible source: he hasn't been affiliated with Wikipedia since 2002, and he now spends his time promoting the QAnon conspiracy theory on Twitter ⧉. Consensus is a policy that allowed Wikipedia to obtain its current level of prominence whether Sanger likes it or not. — Newslinger talk 06:30, 2 August 2020 (UTC)

While Newslinger claims that the co-founder of Wikipedia is not a reliable source, the article tarnishing Hindus mentions Rana Ayyub's opinion piece as a reliable source. Rana Ayyub is currently under investigation for embezzlement of funds and the Supreme Court had also observed that her "journalism" in the 2002 Gujarat case had no reliability and was fabricated.

Both the 'editors' then deny an edit request asking for a more 'neutral' term be used instead of 'warcry'. In the process, there is also conversation about banning "right wing people" who disagree with their bias.

Edit Request

Please replace "war cry" in the lede with a more neutral term. War cry can also mean "a call made to rally soldiers for battle" according to Google's dictionary. A more appropriate term could be "rallying call" as the phrase is also used by the BJP merely to rally voters to their cause, and also used to rally some nuts into committing crimes.45.251.33.60 (talk) 08:31, 2 August 2020 (UTC)

> This edit request has been answered. Set the |answered= or |ans= parameter to **no** to reactivate your request.

> The terminology of "war cry" is evidenced in multiple reliable sources. See the section above titled "#A pamphlet.. Kautilya3 (talk) 09:02, 2 August 2020 (UTC)

>> Ah, okay then, Kautilya3. Maybe this surge in right-wing editors adding their opinions on the talk page as well could be stopped or at least slowed down if you guys added an FAQ template resolving every vandal's complaints (like the one that Newslinger put on Talk:OpIndia)? 45.251.33.60 (talk) 09:11, 2 August 2020 (UTC)

>>> 45.251.33.60 has drafted an FAQ at User talk:Newslinger § FAQs on all controversial Hinduism-related pages. The FAQ is now included on the top of this page, and is visible to all readers who are not using the mobile versions of Wikipedia. I've adjusted the FAQ to mention *Jai Shri Ram* directly, link to applicable policies and guidelines, and be consistent with these polices and guidelines. Please feel free to make further improvements at Talk:Jai Shri Ram/FAQ. — *Newslinger* talk 05:58, 3 August 2020 (UTC)

The editors then proceed to be extremely worried about a criticism of the page published, claiming that the edits on the page 'would increase' because a criticism was published.

(section continues to next page)

For the joy of all

This article is now written about on OpIndia. Gråbergs Gråa Sång (talk) 10:43, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

> Hindu version of Christian persecution complex? Hmm.... TryKid [*dubious – discuss*] 11:11, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>> It's a thought. Gråbergs Gråa Sång (talk) 11:45, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>> How's that even relevant to our discussions here? It's not even a WP:RS (far from so). SerChevalerie (talk) 11:59, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>>>> CPC is not, it's idle chatting. But OpIndias article may increase the editing of the article and the talkpage, that's a heads-up for editors. Gråbergs Gråa Sång (talk) 12:05, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

> Actually no, I generally never rely on OpIndia's Articles as they are fairly biased, sometimes hateful even. My activity on this page is solely because of the manner in which the article is written, and not its content. The very fact that there is more criticism in the article about the slogan than about its history, tells us how poorly the article has been written.Parlebourbon3 (talk) 13:42, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

>> Parlebourbon3, if you know a lot about its history, then please help us find WP:RS for the same so that we may add it. If you cannot contribute constructively you are not welcome here. SerChevalerie (talk) 14:44, 1 August 2020 (UTC)

There was another conversation, a contributor says that the sentence in the introductory paragraph should be changed. His edit suggestion was rather reasonable, keeping intact that Left bias of the introduction as well, however, it was rejected by Kautilya3 saying that the most prominent use of Jai Shree Ram is to perpetrate violence against Muslims.

The slogan has since then been employed for perpetration of communal violence against people of other faiths.

This statement is too broad and seems to indicate that it is being used only to perpetrate violence. The chant Jai Shri Ram is used on many religious pious occasions including in temples, as a greeting every day by millions of people worldwide so above statement should be removed or made more nuanced for example channge to: "The slogan has been used at times during perpetration of communal violence against people of other faiths." — Preceding unsigned comment added by 73.163.184.17 (talk) 18:39, 7 August 2020 (UTC)

> No, it does not mean that it is only used to perpetrate violence. But certainly it is its most *prominent* use, as per sources. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 23:53, 7 August 2020 (UTC)

This Wikipedia article is protected and therefore, not everyone can edit it, as evidenced by the talk page discussions as well.

For Bollywoodbite (talk | block log | uploads | logs | global block log | global account | filter log)
A user with 22 edits. Account created on 16 October 2007.

> ∨ Search for contributions

- 05:04, 2 November 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+6) . . Hrithik Roshan
- 04:57, 2 November 2007 (diff | hist) . . (0) . . Hrithik Roshan
- 04:11, 27 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (−11) . . Shah Rukh Khan (→Actor)
- 04:32, 24 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+32) . . Rahul (→People named Rahul)
- 23:30, 22 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+18) . . Rani Mukerji (→Filmography)
- 23:30, 22 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+18) . . Salman Khan (→Filmography)
- 23:29, 22 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+35) . . Saawariya (→Cast)
- 01:38, 22 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+5) . . Arbaaz Khan (→Filmography)
- 01:33, 22 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+67) . . Arbaaz Khan (→Filmography)
- 09:06, 21 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+112) . . Tobey Maguire (→Filmography)
- 08:09, 21 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+87) . . Daniel Radcliffe (→Filmography)
- 02:08, 19 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (−10) . . Karisma Kapoor
- 00:16, 17 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+31) . . Suniel Shetty (→Filmography)
- 23:02, 16 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+59) . . Sanjay Dutt (→Forthcoming)
- 03:29, 16 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+3,910) . . N Jai Shri Ram (←Created page with 'From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (Redirected from Hum Aapke Hain Koun) Jump to: navigation, search Jai Sri Ram DVD cover Directed by Sooraj R. Barjatya Produ...')
- 03:24, 16 October 2007 (diff | hist) . . (+6) . . Madhuri Dixit

The page on Jai Shri Ram was created by an account which no longer exists. In his log, it is evident that he only made edits to some Bollywood pages and the only page of significance created was Jai Shri Ram. It is, therefore, entirely possible that this account was merely a pseudonym which was used to create the page and then deleted. Currently, the page is being manned by two main accounts – Kautilya3 and Newslinger.

What it means

It is evident from this indicative list of edits that Wikipedia toes a distinct editorial line, many times, with the explicit funding of Wikimedia Foundation. As it turns out, even Newslinger has been funded by Wikimedia Foundation as we would see in the following section. By definition, an intermediary is not supposed to follow a specific editorial line. It is meant to merely be a platform for the public to air their own views. However, that is not the case with Wikipedia. Firstly, as demonstrated, not everybody can air their views on Wikipedia. Secondly, only a small group of editors and administrators have the final say on the nature of content that is added in any articles, making the articles one-sided, biased, and toeing a specific ideological line. Thirdly, several of these so-called 'volunteers' are paid by the Wikimedia Foundation to further their ideological and business interests. And as we would see in the next section, the sources that are allowed to be quoted in Wikipedia articles also suffer the same bias, often injected by editors and administrators who are directly paid by Wikimedia Foundation. With all of these realities, Wikipedia does not fall under the intermediary category, but the publisher category – additionally – a publisher that is actively undermine the interest of India without following the law of India – financially or editorially.

Bias sources – how sources are blacklisted, making content bias

In the beginning of this paper, research papers showed how most non-Left sources were banned for usage in Wikipedia.

The list of deprecated sources and blacklisted sources indicate how the articles on Wikipedia are doomed to be biased because of the sources which are considered reliable and the ones which are not. The decision to deprecate sources itself stems from the Left bias that the editors seem to suffer from.

For example, Wikipedia considers Al Jazeera an unquestionably reliable source, indicating it in green.

| Al Jazeera
WP:ALJAZEERA 📌 | ✅ | 🔷 2024
+14[e] | 2024 | Al Jazeera is a Qatari state-funded news organization and in the 2024 RfC there was consensus that it is generally reliable. Most editors seem to agree that Al Jazeera English and especially Al Jazeera Arabic are biased sources on the Arab–Israeli conflict and on topics for which the Qatari government has a conflict of interest. Editors perceive Al Jazeera English to be more reliable than Al Jazeera Arabic. Al Jazeera's live blogs should be treated with caution, per the policy on news blogs. Note that the domain name "aljazeera.com" only started hosting Al Jazeera English content in 2011; links to aljazeera.com prior to 2011 pointed to the unaffiliated Al Jazeera Magazine. | 1 🔒 🔗
2 🔒 🔗 |

Al Jazeera is a Qatar state-funded news organisation which has spread radical agendas, misinformation, fake news and propaganda on several occasions. Recently, it was even revealed that Al Jazeera journalists with fly-by-night operators who were working as "journalists" during the day but Hamas terrorists during the night. Any concerns of bias have been stonewalled by those who are sympathetic to the Islamic cause. In one of the talk pages, when someone lists instances of fake news that was spread by Al Jazeera during the Israel-Hamas war, the editors promptly tell the concerned person that misinformation was spread because of the 'fog of war'.

BBC, which is state-funded media, is in the green as well.

However, there are several others which are not even discussed. Indian state news channel Doordarshan, for example, does not feature in the list.

As far as some other sources are concerned – OpIndia, Swarajya are banned and blacklisted, however, TheWire, despite its several disinformation campaigns, Newslaundry, Scroll, Print etc are marked reliable.

An analysis of how TheWire page is crafted and the issues left out is imperative to understand the inherent bias of Wikipedia editors, the sources that are used and therefore, the bias of Wikipedia itself.

In one discussion, an individual mentions how TheWire was called out for blatantly fake news over the achievements of the Indian Navy. After the article was published, Commodore Jaideep Maolankar (R) had lashed out at TheWire for blatantly mispresenting his views in their article to deliberately downplay the achievements of India and the Indian Navy. OpIndia was the only portal to publish a report on the statements of the veteran[149].

In TheWire talk page, the editors stone-walling the proposal to add the fake news spread by TheWire.

The wire had recently writtten an article ↗ tiled "Time for an 'Accurate and Down-to-Earth Assessment' of Vikrant, Say Veterans" which is based on an interview given by Navy veteran Commodore Jaideep Maolankar (R) to Barkha Dutt.

Later through a series of tweets ↗ Commodore Jaideep Maolankar (R) called out The Wire biased and filled with vested interest. Cmde Maolankar pointed ↗ out how that was also deceitful on The Wire's part as what they did make it appear like he gave an interview to them. Opindia has done a perfect expose of the wire.

The details about the biased reporting by The Wire may be added in this page. Maduadih (talk) 07:03, 7 September 2022 (UTC) [1] [2] [3] (sock strike — DaxServer (t · m · c) 16:58, 7 September 2022 (UTC))

References

1. ^ https://feedus.live/media-feed/3941/ ↗
2. ^ https://twitter.com/JA_Maolankar/status/1567203467713986561?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw ↗
3. ^ https://twitter.com/JA_Maolankar/status/1567349146990018562?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw ↗

OpIndia is not a reliable source. Someone's Twitter account is only a reliable source for what the person has said (see WP:SELFSOURCE).

It is difficult to see anything objectionable in Bedi, Rahul (6 September 2022). "Time for an 'Accurate and Down-to-Earth Assessment' of Vikrant, Say Veterans" ↗. *The Wire (India)*.. There are books on the histories of different Royal Navy aircraft strike carriers - the ones that had steam catapults and operated fast jets - what is happening to the *Vikrant* is similar to what happened to them – it is what you should expect in an experienced competent navy like the present-day Indian Navy or the Royal Navy of the 1950s and early 1960s.-- Toddy1 (talk) 08:00, 7 September 2022 (UTC)

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[149] https://www.opindia.com/2022/09/the-wire-commodore-jaideep-maolankar-ins-vikrant-comments/

The conversation here says that the statement on Twitter by Commodore Jaideep Maolankar (R) cannot be used as a reference because it would be considered a "self-source" and OpIndia, which covered the statement of Maolankar cannot be used as a reference because the source itself has been blacklisted.

It is pertinent to note that 'self-source' guideline of Wikipedia does not preclude the addition of a Twitter source clarifying that he has been misquoted in an article[150]. Further, the sources being blacklisted on flimsy and ideological grounds by Wikipedia only serves to existing bias of the editors, ensuring that the information itself is skewed and biased.

In another discussion, for example, the editors first agreed and then stonewalled the addition of a section about how TheWire fake news led to violence in the Northeast and other fake news that was spread by the publication.

Discuss: Indian Express Article on The Wire and violence in NE Assam among others

Read this article that speaks for itself about how The Wire triggered violence by misinformation. link : https://indianexpress.com/articl e/cities/guwahati/how-an-interview-led-to-a-violent-agitation-in-assam-district-bordering-nagaland-dima-hasao-protets-5042770/ ⟲

Elaborate on Rohini Singh's shoddy article on Jay Shah which had massive errors and displayed her poor ability to comrehend finances. The Golden Touch of Jay Shah was nothing less than a hitjob and was factchecked by several portals.

The Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC) too had called out The Wire for its lies. They had even tweeted out a letter to The Wire. https://twitter.com/cbic_india/status/932693786500538368?s=20 ⟲

Glorification of Tahir Hussain who is an accused in delhi Riots https://thewire.in/rights/jail-bail-hearings-court-delhi-riots-elgar-parishad ⟲

The Wire spread Fake news claiming that ED had not found a link between PFI and Bhim Army. The tweet by ED must be taken as its official stand. relevant portals have covered the same. Search on Google

--YoYoRockNRoll (talk) 14:33, 22 January 2021 (UTC)YoYoRockNRoll

> YoYoRockNRoll, again, what is the edit you are proposing? Please understand wikipedia is not a forum to discuss views but an encyclopedia. ChunnuBhai (talk) 08:21, 23 January 2021 (UTC)

Please add this under Reception or Controversy. There are very serious ethics issues of TheWire that must be called out. I am a staunch supporter of Wikipedia mentioning the misinformation peddled by OpIndia but it will be hypocritical if we do not do the same for TheWire. YoYoRockNRoll (talk) 15:56, 24 January 2021 (UTC)

> YoYoRockNRoll, whats this constant comparison with OpIndia? if you dont have a draft of what you want to add, I suggest stop spamming talk pages with whataboutism. ChunnuBhai (talk) 19:45, 24 January 2021 (UTC)

Since you want me to get straight to the point, I request you to give consent to add the sections I have mentioned under 'Reception' or create a new section titled 'Controversy'. And no, I am not spamming anything as I have attached appropriate links and justification to my objections and requests. Please be polite. YoYoRockNRoll (talk) 05:53, 25 January 2021 (UTC)

> YoYoRockNRoll, great that you are NOW talking straight to the point. now. draft it yourself, follow NPOV and RS. and edit the article yourself. what you have written in the opening post are some incoherent sentences (which btw reminds me of someone else who was recently banned for not following NPOV) ChunnuBhai (talk) 06:02, 25 January 2021 (UTC)

Go ahead with the Assam violence section. Vidit Bhosale (talk) 17:03, 5 April 2021 (UTC)

The editor who was attempting to stonewall the conversation about TheWire's fake news being added in the Wikipedia article was rude and essentially claimed that individual bringing it up was being obtuse.

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[150] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Reliable_sources#Self-published_and_questionable_sources_as_sources_on_themselves

In the end, another editor said that the individual should go ahead and add the portion about TheWire causing violence with its fake news.

However, when that information was added to the Wikipedia article, Kautilya3, who has been booked in Manipur for inciting hate, reverted that edit[151].

The Wire (India): Difference between revisions

文A **5 languages** ⌄

Article   Talk

Read   View source   View history   Tools ⌄

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❓ Help 🔒

Browse history interactively ⌄

👁 **Visual**   [[]] **Wikitext**   Inline ⬤

Revision as of 14:48, 6 February 2021 (view source)
YoYoRockNRoll (talk I contribs)
m (Rearranged sentence order.)
(Tags: Reverted, Visual edit, Mobile edit, Mobile web edit)
← Previous edit

Revision as of 23:07, 6 February 2021 (view source)
Kautilya3 (talk I contribs)
(→Reception: The Wire "claimed" and Jagadamba Mal "clarified"? Whereas it is his plan that incited riots. Find some better WP:THIRDPARTY sources that say that The Wire did anything wrong)
(Tags: Reverted, Visual edit)
Next edit →

Reception

A December 2019 article by Dexter Filkins of The New Yorker, noted The Wire is one of the few small outfits and the most prominent (other than The Caravan), to have engaged in providing aggressive coverage of the current Indian Govt ruled by BJP at a time when mainstream media is failing to do so.[20]

In 2018, an interview published by The Wire claimed that Jagdamba Mal was an RSS leader who had proposed "separate development authorities" for Naga dominated regions of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. This triggered violent clashes and police firing causing 2 deaths in Dima Hasao district on the Assam-Nagaland border over fears by Assamese groups that it was a stepping stone towards Greater Nagalim. Jagdamba Pal clarified that he was not a part of RSS and said that the The Wire reporter had blown his statement 'totally out of proportion and out of context."[21]

In 2020, The Wire had claimed that the victims of the Palghar Lynching were tribals belonging to the Gosavi tribe, which was picked by many news portals[21]. Subsequently, it was found out that the victims Kalpavruksh Giri and Sushil Giri Maharaj were Brahmin Hindus[22][23] of the Tiwari and Dubey caste belonging to the Juna Akhara and were not tribals. Despite that, Editor Siddharth Varadarajan amplified the incorrect report in an interview with Newslaundry.[24] Following criticism, The Wire issued a clarification.

References

20. Filkins, Dexter (2 December 2019). "Blood and Soil in Narendra Modi's India" ↗. The New Yorker. ISSN 0028-792X ↗. Retrieved 3 December 2019.

21. "How an interview led to a violent agitation in Assam district bordering Nagaland" ↗. The Indian Express. 29 January 2018. Retrieved 6 February 2021.

21. "Three Men Lynched in Maharashtra, BJP Leaders Push Communal Angle" ↗. The Wire. Retrieved 6 February 2021.

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[151] https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Wire_%28India%29&diff=1005285583&oldid=1005209689

It is pertinent to note that Indian Express is not a blacklisted source on Wikipedia and therefore, there is no real reason for Kautilya3 to remove the reference. To date, this portion does not appear in TheWire Wikipedia page.

The fake news that was spread by TheWire about the Palghar lynching of two Sadhus was also removed by Kautilya3 citing that there was no source for it.

Browse history interactively ⌄

👁 Visual [[]] Wikitext   Inline ⬤

Revision as of 23:07, 6 February 2021 (view source)	Revision as of 23:18, 6 February 2021 (view source)
Kautilya3 (talk I contribs)	Kautilya3 (talk I contribs)
(→Reception: The Wire "claimed" and Jagadamba Mal "clarified"? Whereas it is his plan that incited riots. Find some better WP:THIRDPARTY sources that say that The Wire did anything wrong)	(→Reception: Where is the source that says any of this? This appears to be WP:OR)
(Tags: Reverted, Visual edit)	(Tags: Manual revert, Visual edit)
← Previous edit	Next edit →

⋮

Reception

⋮

A December 2019 article by Dexter Filkins of *The New Yorker*, noted *The Wire* is one of the few small outfits and the most prominent (other than The Caravan), to have engaged in providing aggressive coverage of the current Indian Govt ruled by BJP at a time when mainstream media is failing to do so.[20]

In 2020, The Wire had claimed that the victims of the Palghar Lynching were tribals belonging to the Gosavi tribe, which was picked by many news portals[21]. Subsequently, it was found out that the victims Kalpavruksh Giri and Sushil Giri Maharaj were Brahmin Hindus[22][23] of the Tiwari and Dubey caste belonging to the Juna Akhara and were not tribals. Despite that, Editor Siddharth Varadarajan amplified the incorrect report in an interview with Newslaundry.[24] Following criticism, The Wire issued a clarification.

On 1 April 2020, editor Vadarajan tweeted and claimed that Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath had insisted that Rama Navami fair will be held as usual and attributed false quote to him amidst Coronavirus lockdown in India.[21] Later, he had clarified that quote was not of Yogi Adityanath. Two first information reports against Vadarajan were lodged in Faizabad under sections 505(2) and 188 of Indian Penal Code and under section 66D of Information Technology Act, 2000.[22] The founding editors of *The Wire* described the FIRs as "politically motivated".[23]

⋮

References

⋮

20. Filkins, Dexter (2 December 2019). "Blood and Soil in Narendra Modi's India" ↗. *The New Yorker*. ISSN 0028-792X ↗. Retrieved 3 December 2019.

21. "Three Men Lynched in Maharashtra, BJP Leaders Push Communal Angle" ↗. *The Wire*. Retrieved 6 February 2021.

22. "पालघर मॉब लिंचिंग: स्वामी कल्पवृक्ष गिरि पडोही के रहने वाले थे, परिजन बोले- दोषियों को कड़ी सजा दी जाए" ↗. *Dainik Bhaskar* (in Hindi). 21 April 2020. Retrieved 6 February 2021.

23. "पालघर मॉब लिंचिंग: भीड़ का शिकार हुए संत सुशील गिरि मुन्नालपुर के रहने वाले थे, 12 साल की उम्र में पिता की डांट से खफा होकर घर छोड़ा था" ↗. *Dainik Bhaskar* (in Hindi). 21 April 2020. Retrieved 6 February 2021.

24. "NL Interview: Siddharth Varadarajan on UP police's FIRs, press freedom, and media after corona" ↗. *Newslaundry*. Retrieved 6 February 2021.

21. Rashid, Omar (2 April 2020). "Uttar Pradesh police lodge FIR against the editor of *The Wire* for 'objectionable article' against Yogi Adityanath" ↗. *The Hindu*. ISSN 0971-751X ↗. Retrieved 2 April 2020.

The problem here is, against, the question of sources which have been blacklisted. Any information on fake news being spread and the consequences of it by the Left media would be mostly covered in the non-Left media, which has in itself been blacklisted by Left editors of Wikipedia. The result of this well-crafted strategy is that the information is heavily biased, skewing towards the Left.

In another discussion, the official Twitter handle of the police calling TheWire story fake was called an unreliable source.

Hoshiarpur Police

Newslinger Why are you reverting modifications without proper explanation? Pls discuss here if any concerns

-- Bmmanjesh (talk) 16:45, 13 April 2020 (UTC)

> I have no idea what Newslinger reverted. But I just reverted a series of your edits which were sourced to Twitter. Please read WP:RS. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 16:56, 13 April 2020 (UTC)

What's wrong with sourcing from Twitter. An official police account is calling an article published on The Wire as fake. I'm not stating it as a matter of fact but clearly stating without anything hidden. That's a relevant update for this page. -- Bmmanjesh (talk) 17:11, 13 April 2020 (UTC)

> You were advised to read WP:RS. You haven't said whether you read it or not. What does it say? -- Kautilya3 (talk) 18:17, 13 April 2020 (UTC)

> Hi Bmmanjesh, although I did not revert your edits, it looks like you cited a Twitter (RSP entry) post in Special:Diff/950751396. Tweets are generally considered undue weight, unless they are mentioned by a reliable secondary source. Wikipedia articles are mostly based on reliable secondary sources, and primary sources (including tweets) are only used to supplement secondary sources with uncontroversial details. — Newslinger talk 02:52, 14 April 2020 (UTC)

The official twitter handles of Police, government and judicial departments can't be taken lightly. It is as genuine as the government website. Pranav jung (talk) 04:56, 23 May 2020 (UTC)

> If a tweet were significant, it would be discussed in a reliable secondary source. — Newslinger talk 21:12, 23 May 2020 (UTC)

Kautilya3 and Newslinger successfully stonewalled the edit which was meant to add the police calling a TheWire story fake.

First, Kautilya3 says that he is not aware what Newslinger reverted, however, is right because Twitter is not a reliable source.

Newslinger then chimes in saying that even if it's the official police handle, a secondary "reliable source" will have to cover that statement before it can be used as a reference. Any source that would potentially cover the statement of the police has been blacklisted by Wikipedia editors.

In another discussion, an individual asked for the discussion among editors about whether TheWire was a reliable source to be cited in Wikipedia.

Indian Wikipedia editor flat-out refuses and claims that there is no need for the discussion at all.

The wire reliable source?

⚠️ This discussion has been disrupted by block evasion, ban evasion, or sockpuppetry from the following user:

- LodoVena (talk · contribs · block log · spi)

Comments from this user should be excluded from assessments of consensus.

The following discussion is closed. **Please do not modify it.** *Subsequent comments should be made on the appropriate discussion page. No further edits should be made to this discussion.*

Consult this concurrent discussion at RSN. TrangaBellam (talk) 05:56, 9 February 2022 (UTC)

Web portal The wire relible source?LodoVena (talk) 11:43, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

yes. It is an online newspaper.-- Toddy1 (talk) 11:55, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

plz give me the refrence if its reliability (for use in wikipedia as WPRS for Indian politics et al) was discussed on wikipediaLodoVena (talk) 12:06, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

WP:NEWSORG. TrangaBellam (talk) 12:55, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

whether any past discussion on WPRSN related to relibilty of the wireLodoVena (talk) 13:29, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

I do not suspect *The Wire* has been discussed, yet. I do not see a reason for discussion either. TrangaBellam (talk) 17:24, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

i do see a reason for discussion at WPRSN LodoVena (talk) 18:31, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

@LodoVena did you search for the discussion? Venkat TL (talk) 18:39, 8 February 2022 (UTC)

i am searching for past consensus, if any?LodoVena (talk) 05:24, 9 February 2022 (UTC)

The discussion above is closed. **Please do not modify it.** *Subsequent comments should be made on the appropriate discussion page. No further edits should be made to this discussion.*

In another section, Kautilya3 and other editors ensures that an FIR against TheWire was not mentioned claiming that FIRs are "very normal" according to TheWire and therefore, it should not be mentioned since they are very common[152].

What? Haven't you been told already that it was an instance of WP:NOTNEWS? Copyediting doesn't make encyclopaedic. -- Kautilya3 (talk) 10:00, 11 October 2021 (UTC)

@DavidWood11: The current argument against your proposed paragraph is WP:NOTNEWS. So the question is, why does someone reading an encyclopaedia article about *The Wire* need to know about this? If police FIRs against newspapers were almost unheard of in India, that would be a good reason for inclusion. According to this June 2020 article in The Wire ⬈ they are quite common. So what is special about this FIR that merits including it?-- Toddy1 (talk) 10:19, 11 October 2021 (UTC)

This is because

1. media neutrality is of utmost value to any country and wikipedia itself, because they are used as WP:RS.
2. Any FIR against any media is a form of controversy.
3. Readers of wikipedia must be aware of these controversies specially against news media.
4. According to you if any FIR or controversy shall not be included in wiki page of any news portal then this ⬈, this ⬈, this ⬈ and this ⬈ are also WP:NOTNEWS and shall be removed from the respective page? DavidWood11 (talk) 11:03, 11 October 2021 (UTC)

But what is special about this FIR?-- Toddy1 (talk) 11:43, 11 October 2021 (UTC)

Read Pt. No. 1 & 3 above DavidWood11 (talk) 11:48, 11 October 2021 (UTC)

@DavidWood11: What I understand from your reply is that there is nothing special about this FIR.-- Toddy1 (talk) 12:14, 11 October 2021 (UTC)

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152 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:The_Wire_(India)/Archive_1#White_washing

However, in Wikipedia article about the blacklisted sources, the FIRs against those publications are prominently mentioned.

In the 2018–2019 financial year, Aadhyaasi Media reported ₹1 million (US$12,000) in profit.[23] Between March and June 2019, OpIndia purchased ₹90,000 (US$1,100) of political advertising on Facebook. The BJP petitioned Facebook to allow OpIndia to receive advertising revenue on the social network in November 2019.[42][48][49] In 2020, the West Bengal Police filed first information reports (FIRs) against Sharma, Roushan and Ajeet Bharti (then editor of OpIndia Hindi) in response to content published on OpIndia. The Supreme Court of India stayed the FIRs in June 2020 after hearing a plea from the defendants which argued that the matter was outside the jurisdiction of the government of West Bengal.[50][51] In December 2021, the Supreme Court quashed the FIRs after the West Bengal state government informed the court that they had decided to withdraw the FIRs.[52]

While mentioning the quashing of the FIRs against the publication, it has still not been mentioned that the Supreme Court chastised the government while filed the FIRs.

It is, therefore, evident that there is a concerted effort by Wikipedia editors to ensure the editorial slant of the articles on the website, conforming to a specific ideological side while deprecating sources that present a counter to the ideological stands taken by the Left.

What it means

There is, therefore, a deliberate effort by Wikipedia editors to maintain an editorial slant that aligns with a left-leaning ideology. This is achieved through the selective deprecation of sources, thereby shaping content to favour one side of the ideological spectrum. On Wikipedia, no 'blacklisted or deprecated source' can be cited as a reference. The editors and administrators decide based on their own confirmation bias which sources are reliable and which are not. In doing so, they ensure that only side of the story is featured in their articles.

It is pertinent to note that when Wikipedia guideline speaks of "Neutral Point of View", it merely means that all versions from "reliable sources" are added to the article. However, if the pool of reliable sources itself is tainted with ideological biases, the 'Neutral Point of View' guidelines merely remains a requirement where all versions of the Left are prominently added. We have seen how even court judgements and police statements are not considered 'reliable sources'.

Therefore, if there is a case where an anti-India fake news is being spread, Wikipedia administrators and editors would simply refuse to add the counter to that fake news if the counter has come from Indian Courts, government, police or platforms they don't agree with ideologically. Interestingly, it is not just digital platforms like OpIndia or Swarajya that have been blacklisted, but even large media houses like Republic and Times of India have been marked as deprecated. This goes to show that Wikipedia is not only bias and spreads misinformation, but also has a specific editorial stand dismissing them from being treated as intermediaries and requires them to be treated as publishers.

Wikipedia in India

Currently, Wikimedia Foundation/Wikipedia have no official presence in India – which is to say – that there exists no registered 'chapter' of Wikimedia Foundation/Wikipedia in India after it was derecognised by the Wikimedia Foundation in 2019. While Wikipedia has no official presence in India, it continues to work in India and even fund Wikipedia programs in India – including funding editors and administrators.

This section will deal with the history of Wikimedia Foundation in India, how it funds Wikipedia work in India, its response to the IT Guidelines and the blatant misrepresentations by Wikimedia Foundation.

Wikimedia Foundation in India – history of its official chapter

In 2004, a discussion was initiated between some Wikipedia editors and Wikimedia Foundation for the formation of a formal Wikipedia India Chapter. The discussion ranged from the nature of legal entity to the funding that would be required. One Himanshu was meant to lead to research on whether Wikipedia Chapter should be registered as an NGO in India[153].

The discussion in 2004 was inconclusive, however, the discussion was restarted in the year 2007[154]. A Wikipedia administrator 'NichalP'[155] made a mailing list to discuss the creation of Wikipedia Chapter. The discussion progressed substantially and a set of bylaws (draft) was also created by Indian Wikipedians[156].

In December 2008, Jimmy Wales and Sue Garner visited India[157]. Jimmy Wales is the head of Wikimedia Foundation and Sue Garner was the Executive Director of Wikimedia Foundation. During their trip, they spoke about opening an Indian Chapter of Wikimedia and also attended a talk hosted by Kiruba Shankar. Kiruba Shankar calls himself a 'tech entrepreneur' and is the founder of an NGO. He was the first in India to initiate 'Wikipedia Academy' where individuals could organise themselves and learn how to edit Wikipedia[158].

In July 2009, there was a Wikipedia Meet-up in Banglare at the residence of a Wikipedia Administrator from Kerala – Tinu Cherian Abraham. The meeting was held on the 5th of July 2009 and starting of a Wikipedia India Chapter was discussed as per the logs.

In the notes of the meeting, Tinu Cherian remarked that the "Centre for Internet and Society (CIS – India) had offered to host such meetings and events in the future.

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[153] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_India/2004_IRC_meeting#Funding
[154] https://lists.wikimedia.org/pipermail/wikimediaindia-l/2007-November/thread.html
[155] https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Nichalp
[156] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_India/bylaws/historic
[157] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech-news/wikipedia-wants-more-from-india/articleshow/3840119.cms
[158] https://www.kiruba.com/press/wikipedia-academy-inaugurated/

Other notes [edit]

- Sunil Abraham, *The Centre for Internet and Society*, Bangalore (cis-india.org ↗) offered to help us hosting such events in future.. even provide food, recording equipment etc :) -- *Tinu Cherian* - 12:27, 8 July 2009 (UTC) [reply]

It is important to note that Wikimedia Foundation officially funds and works with CIS-India since 2012[159].

Resolution: FDC recognition for the Centre for the Internet and Society

文A Add languages ∨

Resolution　Discussion　　　　　　　Read　View source　View history　Tools ∨

This proposal has been approved by the **Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees**. It may not be circumvented, eroded, or ignored by Wikimedia Foundation officers or staff nor local policies of any Wikimedia project. Please note that in the event of any differences in meaning or interpretation between the original English version of this content and a translation, the original English version takes precedence.

←Resolutions　　FDC recognition for the Centre for the Internet and Society　　Feedback?→

This resolution was approved at the Board's November 2013 meeting.

Whereas, the Wikimedia Foundation ("WMF") and the Centre for the Internet and Society ("CIS") have engaged in a working relationship in support of the mission goals of the Wikimedia movement in India since September 1, 2012;

Whereas, the Board would like to ensure that the activities and initiatives of CIS and its grants and payments received from WMF in support of the mission goals of the Wikimedia movement are subject to the review and recommendations of the Funds Dissemination Committee ("FDC") to ensure the best consideration and use of donor monies;

Whereas, the Board recognizes that the work of CIS is comparable to that of other Wikimedia-affiliated entities in support of the mission goals of the Wikimedia movement;

Resolved, that, for purposes of eligibility to submit funding requests to the FDC, the FDC should treat the CIS as it would treat an eligible Wikimedia-affiliated entity for the limited term of CIS' agreement with WMF.

In 2012, Wikimedia Foundation gave a grant of $200,000 to CIS-India to further the mission of Wikimedia Foundation[160].

To date, Wikimedia Foundation continues to fund CIS-India. There is a 2023-2024 grant from Wikimedia Foundation to CIS-India as listed by CIS[161]. Further, Wikimedia directly funds other initiatives which partner with CIS-India to further the work of Wikimedia Foundation (for details, check section on Whose Knowledge and Equality Labs).

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159 https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Resolution:FDC_recognition_for_the_Centre_for_the_Internet_and_Society
160 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Centre_for_Internet_and_Society_(India)#:~:text=2%20Swatantra%202014-,Wikimedia%20Projects,in%20Indic%20languages%20and%20English.
161 https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Programs/Wikimedia_Community_Fund/Centre_for_Internet_and_Society%27s_annual_work_plan_for_2023-2024#Final_Message

In June 2010, the Wikimedia Board of Trustees voted to constitute the Wikimedia India Chapter[162]. By 2011, it was registered as a society via Registrar of Societies, Bangalore Urban District Certificate No: SOR/BLU/DR/1137/10-11 dt 03 Jan 2011. It was a not-for-profit organisation.

The first executive committee board comprised of:

Rahul Deshmukh: President
Yohann Varun Thomas: Secretary
Sanket Oswal : Treasurer
Santosh Shingare: Member
Viswanathan Prabhakaran: Member

By September 2012, Wikimedia Chapter was working directly with the Government of Karnataka. Outreach events were kicked off with a Wiki Academy for Department of Public libraries, Government of Karnataka and in November 2011, Wikimedia India Chapter co-hosted the first WikiConference India with the Mumbai Wikipedia Community.

In 2011, it was reported that Shiju Alex had been made part of the core team of Wikimedia in India. He had been rewarded for improving the Malayalam Wikipedia considerably. This is just another proof that Wikipedia is not particularly a band of disparate individuals editing Wikipedia pages at will, however, there is very often, a monetary and official benefit involved[163].

Interestingly, India was the first chapter that Wikimedia sanctioned outside of India[164]. Clearly, Wikimedia Foundation had special plans for India.

In July 2019, after 8 years of direct funding from Wikimedia Foundation for the India Chapter, Wikimedia announced that the India chapter would be derecognised from September 2019[165][166]. However, the funding in India by Wikimedia Foundation even after the folding of the official Wikimedia Foundation continued.

How Wikimedia Foundation continues to fund projects without being present in India

As evidenced, to date, Wikimedia Foundation funds CIS-India for Wikimedia projects. Further, as shown in the previous sections, there are several cases where Wikimedia Foundation funds US-based NGOs and projects which in turn fund projects in India and collaborate with NGOs to carry out the work of Wikimedia.

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[162] https://foundation.wikimedia.org/wiki/Resolution:Approval_of_Wikimedia_India
[163]
https://web.archive.org/web/20111217045121/https://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/cities/kochi/shiju-alex-wikipedia-india-core-team-638
[164] https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2011-11-02/wikipedia-india-office-will-help-boost-fundraising-founder-says
[165] https://punemirror.com/pune/cover-story/its-a-curtain-call-for-wikimedia-india-chapter/cid5089357.htm#google_vignette
[166] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_India

It therefore appears that Wikimedia Foundation continues to function in India without being officially present in India and submitting to Indian laws.

Wikimedia paying editors, admins and 'volunteers' through grants

Wikimedia Foundation calls editors, administrators and contributors to Wikipedia "volunteers". The entire pitch of Wikipedia is that there are thousands of volunteers of edit Wikipedia out of their commitment to free content and accurate information being made available freely to the world.

However, first and foremost, as has been evidenced, it is demonstrably untrue that all "volunteers" are free to edit Wikipedia and the information is "accurate" because of the "wisdom of the crowds".

Essentially, Wikimedia sells its product and asks for donations on the plank that because there are thousands of volunteers from different walks of life, perspectives and ideologies, the Wikipedia article on any subject would be more accurate due to the collective wisdom of such contributors.

The truth, however, is far from it.

The deliberate and patterned blacklisting of sources from one ideological spectrum owing to the Left bias of the senior editors and administrators, who have sweeping rights, leads to a situation where the information is solely based on Left sources.

Further, the administrators and senior editors, who have sweeping rights, often ban contributors or shut down their edits by citing vague guidelines and reasons, bully with other senior editors and administrators, ensuring that the bias is maintained.

Wikimedia, however, could just as easily say that even the deprecation of sources and consensus (bullying) of the administrators and editors falls under the "wisdom of the crowd" and Wikimedia has no role to play in the process. However, that is far from the truth as well.

Wikimedia Foundation spends millions every year in paying editors, administrators and chosen contributors.

In their 2022-2023 annual report, Wikimedia Foundation disclosed that it paid 33% of its donations to "volunteers".
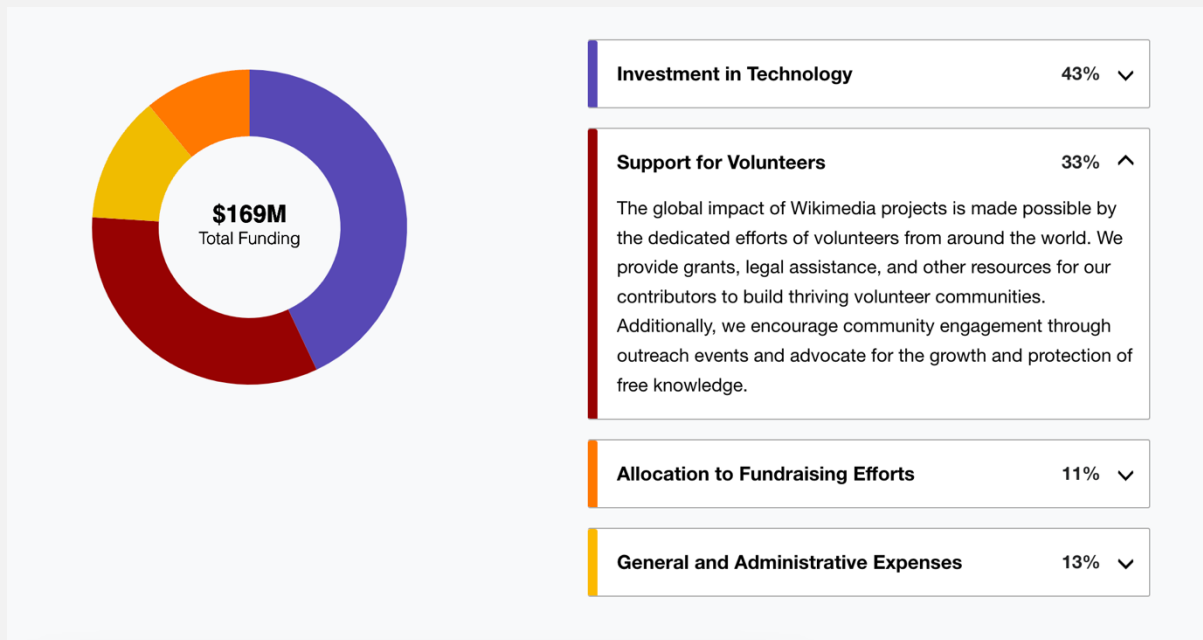
Once people are paid, they cease to be "volunteers" but Wikimedia sticks to this word because it obviously helps them craft the distinct impression of relying solely on wisdom of the crowds and the goodness of people.

43% went in technology. 11% went in raising more funds and 13% was salaries.

Essentially, in one year alone, Wikimedia spent almost $60 million paying its "volunteers" and this is just Wikimedia donations. This does not account for the amount which is disbursed for advocacy and other purposes through Wikimedia Endowment.

While Wikimedia claims that it spends 43% in technology to keep Wikimedia up and running, only a fraction of their expenses accounts for web hosting. Awards and grants forms their single greatest direct expense.

Expenses	2023 (USD)	2022 (USD)
Salaries and benefits	101,305,706	88,111,412
Awards and grants	24,433,682	18,960,813
Internet hosting	3,120,819	2,704,842
In-kind service expenses	1,040,453	405,885
Donation processing expenses	6,855,680	6,215,434
Professional service expenses	15,464,635	16,881,184
Other operating expenses	7,393,982	7,815,795
Travel and conferences	4,180,219	1,191,164
Depreciation and amortization	4,602,064	3,213,466
Special event expense, net	698,141	470,920
Total expenses	**169,095,381**	**145,970,915**

In the latest annual report, the Endowment Fund of Wikimedia is also shows as disbursing grants.

Beginning assets (market value as of July 1, 2022)	99,893,169
Gifts received	14,097,487
Investment gains\losses	10,757,300
Total	**124,747,956**
Expenses	
Fundraising	1,064,389
General & Administrative	925,281
Programmatic:	3,345,588
– *Grants*	*3,229,466*
– *Other*	*116,122*
Total Expenses	**5,335,258**

Interestingly, Wikimedia also disburses grants under "donor advised grants" – which essentially means that they would not reveal exactly where that money was utilised.

Support and revenue	2023 (USD)	2022 (USD)
Contributions of cash and other financial assets	164,121,185	160,468,313
Contributions of nonfinancial assets and services	1,040,453	420,351
Foreign currency gains (losses)	(94,868)	(944,163)
Other income, net	3,824,240	2,106,050
Investment income (loss), net	6,550,439	(11,665,241)
Release of net assets with donor restrictions	4,732,654	4,301,211
Total support and revenue	**180,175,103**	**154,686,521**

There are several grants that Wikimedia Foundation gives to editors for edit-a-thons, other programs and collaborations without having any presence in India.

Wikimedia Foundation – CIS India

As mentioned earlier, Wikimedia Foundation collaborated with CIS-India in 2017. It continues to fund CIS to date, even after folding its services in India.

In India, Wikipedia's parent organisation Wikimedia had collaborated with Bengaluru-based Centre for Internet and Society-Access to Knowledge (CIS-A2K) in 2017 to start 'Project Tiger' with the aim of generating more content for Wikipedia in Indian regional languages.

A 2019 article in Inc42 says[167]:

> *"While Wikipedia is run by an independent non-profit, it does work closely with Google to identify pages that need quicker updates or more translations based on search volumes. Google has had a say in 'Project Tiger' as well. It collaborated with Wikimedia Foundation and its partner organisation CIS-A2K to give a Chromebook to volunteers so that the task of contributing content to Wikipedia becomes easier. Besides, the Wikimedia Foundation offers contributors a stipend for an internet connection.*
>
> *However, Google's interest is not about translating all pages for Indian regional language internet users. At least not right now. The company has provided a list of articles which are searched more frequently by Indian regional language users. Based on this list, Indian Wikipedia contributors are tasked with translating popular articles in Indic languages.*
>
> *"The list of articles that were provided were mostly trending articles on Google. However, we did a consultation, and we found out that a few active editors didn't participate because they found the list to be irrelevant and later a local list was provided," said Gopala Krishna A, a community advocate who has been associated with Project Tiger.*
>
> *To address this gap, Google will provide a list of articles in different languages while Project Tiger will also translate some articles selected by the community.*
>
> *"For Kannada, contributors may want to contribute articles on, say, places to see in Bengaluru. For Tamil people, it might be Tamil literature. So for the next phase, the contributions will also be based on the subjects of interest of the contributor," added Gopala".*

A 2019 article[168] in the WIRE said that Google was paying Wikimedia Foundations millions, and a lot of it is going towards GLOW (Project Tiger, essentially). The article said, "*Even efforts like GLOW—which will now expand to Indonesia, Mexico, and Nigeria, as well as the Middle East and North Africa—can help Google's own bottom line. When the initiative first launched in India, Google provided Chromebooks and internet access to editors, while the Centre for Internet and Society and the Wikimedia India Chapter organized a three-month article writing competition that resulted in nearly 4,500 new Wikipedia articles in 12 different Indic languages. Smartphone penetration in India is only around 27 percent; as more people in the country start using Android smartphones and Google Search, those articles will make the tech giant's products more useful. Wikipedia's blog post announcing Google's new investment makes this strategy fairly clear, noting that the company also provided Project Tiger with "insights into popular search topics on Google for which no or limited local language content exists on Wikipedia."".*

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[167] https://inc42.com/features/can-wikipedia-overcome-gender-gap-as-it-looks-to-translate-articles-in-indian-languages/

[168] https://www.wired.com/story/google-wikipedia-machine-learning-glow-languages/

Google had given $2 million to Wikimedia Foundation and an additional $1 million to Wikimedia Endowment for this program which continues to this day[169][170].

'Know With Wiki' campaign and paid partnerships with 'ArtWhoring' and others

In 2022, Wikimedia Foundation launched a "Know With Wiki" campaign where they reached out to several influencers to talk about Wikipedia articles on local subjects.

The Wikimedia Press release said[171]:

> *The Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit that operates Wikipedia, today launched a campaign in collaboration with Indian youth influencers to highlight the power of free knowledge and show people how projects like Wikipedia can help them access and share knowledge globally. Over the next three weeks, the influencers will release short 60-second videos on Instagram highlighting Wikipedia articles related to topics about the everyday lives of Indian youth and their online pursuit for knowledge. The public can follow the campaign online using #KnowWithWiki.*
>
> *The "Know Your World Better with Wikipedia" campaign will encourage Indian youth to follow their curiosity and do their own research on a wide variety of topics by seeking out open, fact-based, and reliable information, currently available on Wikipedia, the world's largest online encyclopaedia. From music and sports, to body positivity, sustainability and even insects, the featured content will raise awareness about the ways in which Wikipedia can be used as a place to explore and share knowledge.*
>
> *"Indians are among the world's highest consumers of online media and information. Rooted in a nonprofit model, Wikipedia offers them a means to more deeply connect with the issues they care about — from the fun to the serious — by delivering reliable, well-sourced knowledge; it also invites them to share what they know," said Anusha Alikhan, Wikimedia Foundation Vice President of Communications. "Our hope is that by improving the understanding of Wikipedia as a pathway for free knowledge, we can build stronger connections with the Indian public."*
>
> *The content collaborators include popular ex- Radio Jockey Abhinav; comic influencers Sanyam Sharma, Aabir Vyas and Vagmita (thatindianchick); north-eastern model and actress Merenla Imsong; illustrator-writer Priyanka Paul; disability rights activist Virali Modi; Forbes 30 under 30 member and influencer Tirthak Saha; and sustainability influencer Nayana Premnath.*

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[169] It is, therefore, clear, that Wikimedia Foundation continues to pay editors in cash or kind in India through CIS-India – even though they have no offices in India.

[170] https://wikimediafoundation.org/news/2022/05/17/wikimedia-foundation-kicks-off-fundraising-campaigns/
[171] https://wikimediafoundation.org/news/2022/05/06/wikimedia-foundation-launches-knowwithwiki-campaign/
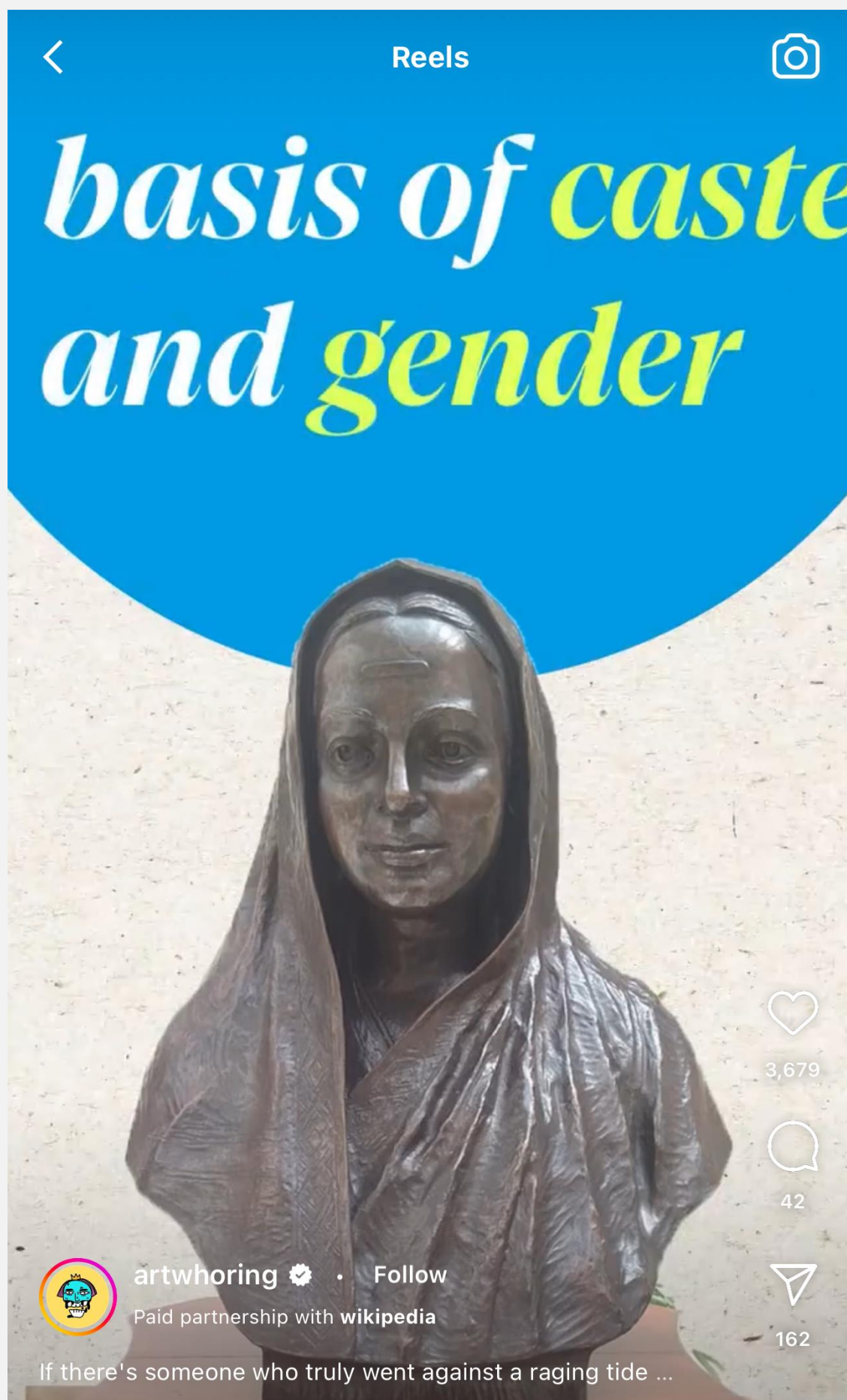
Wikipedia is one of the most visited websites in the world, and the fifth most visited in India. More than 300,000 volunteer contributors add, edit, and update articles on Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects every month. Indian volunteers represent almost a fifth of that number, with over 65,000 contributors. They debate, fact-check, and work together to help ensure articles are neutral and based on reliable secondary sources of information, including news and academic articles, research, and other publications. Wikipedia exists in major Indian languages such as English, Hindi, Marathi, Tamil, and Punjabi. This campaign will ensure that more people in India understand how Wikipedia is built and the active role it can play in shaping informed discussion and debates in their daily lives.

Khanyi Mpumlwana, Wikimedia Foundation Creative Director said, "The inspiring thing about this audience is that they are already informing each other about the world around them; their aspirations, health, interests and passions are being exchanged in so many ways on social media. Our aim with this experiment is to show GenZ audiences in India that Wikipedia already has a role to play in the things they are talking about, and how using this platform can help them further their pursuits to know more."

One of two pillars of the Wikimedia Foundation's strategic direction is to achieve knowledge equity, breaking down the social, political, and technical barriers preventing people from accessing and contributing to free knowledge. With this in mind, the campaign is a way to show Indian youth that everyone has a role in contributing to our shared understanding of the world.

To learn more about Wikimedia Foundation's efforts to increase knowledge equity in its projects, explore our Open the Knowledge initiative. Follow the campaign online using the hashtag #KnowWithWiki.

The press release mentioned that they had collaborated with several individuals, including *illustrator-writer Priyanka Paul.* When one checks her Instagram profile with the hashtag, there is indeed a link that is prominently marked as a "Paid Partnership" with Wikipedia.

basis of caste and gender

Reels

artwhoring ✔ · Follow

Paid partnership with **wikipedia**

3,679

42

162

If there's someone who truly went against a raging tide ...

Priyanka Paul has been a controversial "influencer". In June 2024, Priyanka Paul deliberately hurt the religious sentiments of the Hindu community by painting and peddling Hinduphobic posters. Notably, Priyanka Paul, an "Ambedkarite Feminist" goes by the user name artwhoring on Instagram. She has been garnering attention with her posters that desecrate Hindu Gods and Goddesses.

In 2024, controversy erupted over her painting, which insulted Lord Ram. In the picture, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar is seen assaulting the Hindu God with the religious slogan 'Jai Shri Ram' written halfway, while Dr. Ambedkar assaults the deity while chanting 'Jai Bhim!' Using the same template, Paul has also insulted MK Gandhi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Here are the posters which sparked outrage[172]:

172 https://www.opindia.com/2024/06/priyanka-paul-artwhoring-on-instagram-faces-massive-backlash-over-hinduphobic-posters/
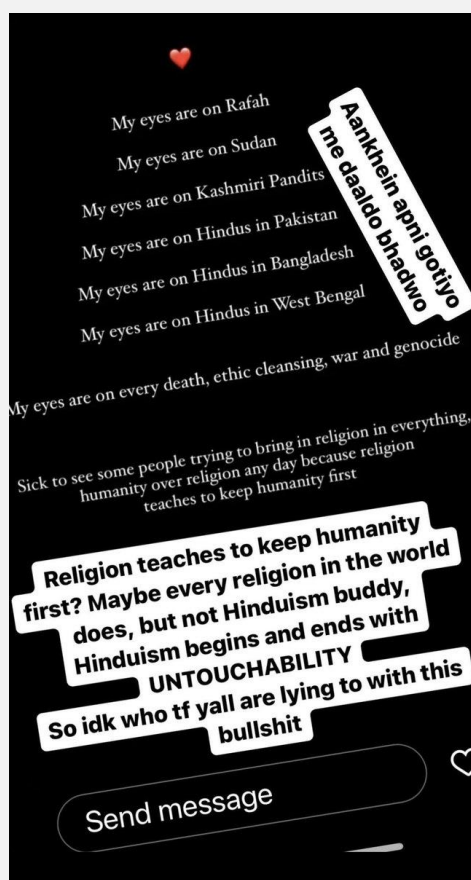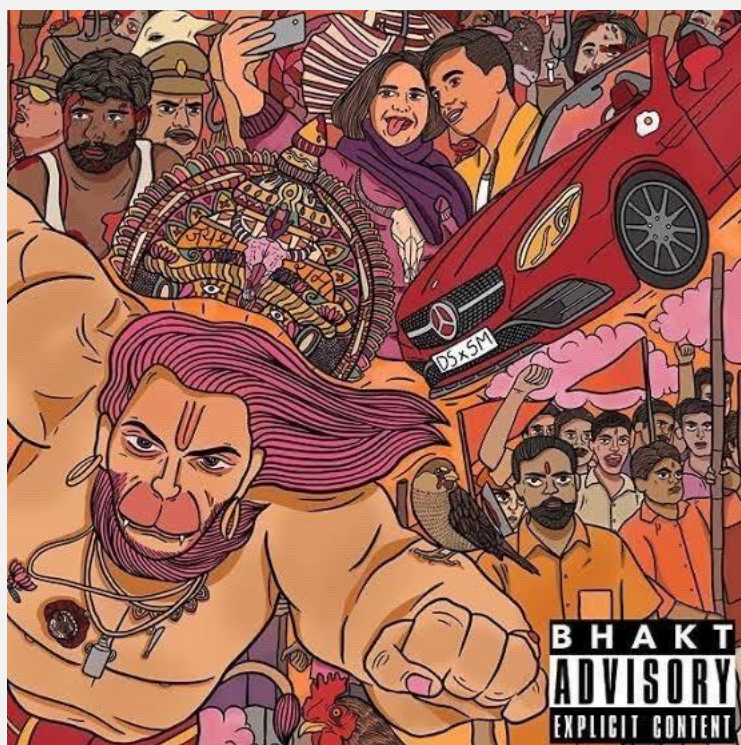
Wikipedia Kannada and Tulu – Funded by Wikimedia and CIS-India

In 2020, Times of India published an article[173] which detailed how Wikipedia was developing, bit by bit, articles in Kannada and Tulu. In the Times of India article, UB Pavanaja is quoted as saying that the first article in Kannada was one on Shivamogga. Since then, the Kannada and Tulu Wikipedia sections have grown immensely. He mentions that a lot of it is also funded by the Wikimedia Foundation and the CIS-India (which is working in collaboration and is funded partly by Wikimedia Foundation).

Millions in 'Grantmaking in South Asia' – Dominated by India

Wikimedia Foundation sends millions of dollars as 'grants' to South Aisa – dominated by India. It is pertinent to remember that while Wikimedia Foundation sends grants to India to further its business interest, it has maintained no presence in India and does not submit to Indian laws.

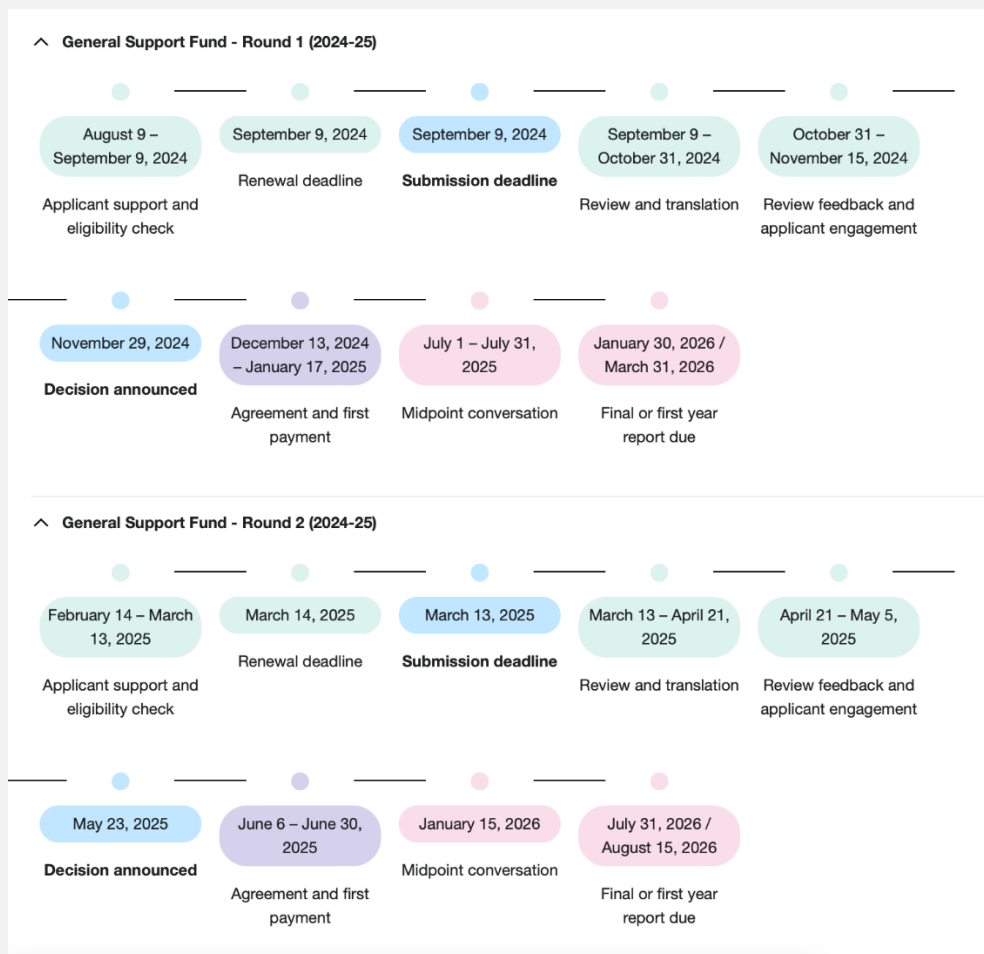### *Regional committee – almost all members from India*

Wikimedia Foundation gives out several grants, as evidenced earlier in this paper. They don't have a specific section for grants to Indian entities, however, they do have a South Asia section on their grant page. The South India section details who are on the 'regional committee' to evaluate grant proposals.

The current round of 'grant making' from the general support fund is ongoing. On the Wikimedia Foundation page, there is a timeline of the process that organisations would have to follow for it.

The "regional committee" which decides who get the grants is comprised of almost all Indians – save for two.

"The primary role of the Regional Fund Committees (RFC, also Regional Funds Committees, Regional Grants Committees) is strategic thought partnership to help understand the complexities of Wikimedia Foundation Funding regions and to make funding decisions for grant applications in the regions, providing knowledge and expertise to applicants to support successful movement activities. An important aspect of the Wikimedia Foundation's funding programs is the role that volunteer committees have in providing both guidance and support to applicants as well as making decisions about how movement funds should be distributed. Based on the movement strategy recommendations, we maintain committees that enable communities in each region and thematic experts to have a central role in setting priorities and allocating funds for specific types of initiatives. Each of these processes benefits greatly from existing expertise, new ideas, and awareness of required skills and circumstances for local communities", Wikimedia Foundation says.

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[173] https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bengaluru/building-wikipedia-in-kannada-and-tulu/articleshow/77959721.cms

General Support Fund - Round 1 (2024-25)

August 9 – September 9, 2024	September 9, 2024	September 9, 2024	September 9 – October 31, 2024	October 31 – November 15, 2024
Applicant support and eligibility check	Renewal deadline	**Submission deadline**	Review and translation	Review feedback and applicant engagement

November 29, 2024	December 13, 2024 – January 17, 2025	July 1 – July 31, 2025	January 30, 2026 / March 31, 2026
Decision announced	Agreement and first payment	Midpoint conversation	Final or first year report due

General Support Fund - Round 2 (2024-25)

February 14 – March 13, 2025	March 14, 2025	March 13, 2025	March 13 – April 21, 2025	April 21 – May 5, 2025
Applicant support and eligibility check	Renewal deadline	**Submission deadline**	Review and translation	Review feedback and applicant engagement

May 23, 2025	June 6 – June 30, 2025	January 15, 2026	July 31, 2026 / August 15, 2026
Decision announced	Agreement and first payment	Midpoint conversation	Final or first year report due

Regional Committee [edit]

- आर्या जोशी, August 2021 - Contributor to Marathi Wikimedia projects and works with many not for profit organizations in Maharashtra. A passionate researcher and enthusiastic learner always.
- Balajijagadesh, August 2021 - Open source enthusiast, active in community engagement activities in Tamil Wiki projects. Contributes to Wikisource and Wikidata.
- Medhavigandhi, August 2021 - Lead Co-organizer at Art+Feminism, active in GLAM space, open GLAM work; leads The Heritage Lab project.
- Nawaraj Ghimire, August 2021 - Wikimedian contributing to the Wikipedia in Classroom project and outreach activities in Nepal.
- Tarunno, October 2021 - Wikimedian active in Bangla Wikimedia projects. Open source enthusiast.
- Nabin K. Sapkota, August 2024 - Event and outreach co-ordiantor in projects under Wikimedians of Nepal
- Ravidreams, August 2024 - Serving Tamil Wikimedia projects since 2005. Have worked with the Wikimedia India Chapter and the WMF in the past towards the development of South Asian Wikimedia communities through various programs like Project Tiger.

Inactive and Past Committee Members

The regional fund committee in this segment for South Asia comprises of 7 members. 5 out of the 7 members are from India. Medhavi Gandhi is the "lead co-organiser" at Art+Feminism – which is funded directly by Wikimedia Foundation (dealt with in a previous section).

Another, Ravidreams who was appointed only in August 2024 is Ravishankar Ayyakkannu according to his Wikipedia page. He was involved in Project Tiger (which is in collaboration with CIS-India) and has worked with the Wikimedia Foundation in the past. He has worked as Program Director of Wikimedia India Chapter (2014-16) and Head of Strategic

Partnerships (Asia and Eastern Europe) at the Wikimedia Foundation (2016-18). He had stood for the Wikimedia Board of Trustees election.

In his submission for the 2021 election to the board of trustees[174], there is an interesting segment which speaks about India.

Diversity: Political system experience The candidate has substantial experience living in and/or working to share knowledge in a non-democratic, state-censoring, or repressive context.	**Yes** India ranks 142 Global Press Freedom ranking and all the social media platforms are facing increased scrutiny from the Indian Government. I have been visibly very vocal against many of the ruling government's policies, like the New Education Policy.

His entire pitch in this segment is that he has been "vocal against many of the ruling government's policies like the NEP".

In his statement for the 2021 election[175] for board of trustees[176], he writes, "As the Head of Strategic Partnerships (Asia and Eastern Europe) at the Wikimedia Foundation during 2016-18, I designed a Google-sponsored Wikipedia community engagement program called Project Tiger, which increased the Indian language content in 10 different languages by more than 16,000 articles within a short span of 3 months. Google scaled this successful pilot into a global program called Project GLOW across 18 languages in 5 regions".

statement (Not more than 450 words)	I started editing Tamil Wikipedia as a graduate student in 2005. Since then, I have worked extensively both as a community member and staff to grow Wikimedia projects in the South Asian region. As the Head of Strategic Partnerships (Asia and Eastern Europe) at the Wikimedia Foundation during 2016-18, I designed a Google-sponsored Wikipedia community engagement program called Project Tiger, which increased the Indian language content in 10 different languages by more than 16,000 articles within a short span of 3 months. Google scaled this successful pilot into a global program called Project GLOW across 18 languages in 5 regions. I also led the Wikipedia Zero program in the region providing free access to Wikimedia projects for over 800 million users globally, across 10+ Asian and Eastern European countries. As the Program Director of Wikimedia India Chapter 2014-16, we grew the Tamil Wikisource project into the Top 10 projects globally. I added more than 10,00,000 pages by automation, innovation, and community participation using Google OCR API. I initiated the trend of free licensing pubic funded education resources in the Indian government institutions and facilitated the enactment of Government Orders towards this purpose. I brought 2000 nationalized Tamil books to the public domain and uploaded them online through a partnership with the State Government of Tamil Nadu and other partner organizations. As a bureaucrat and sysop in most Tamil Wikimedia projects since 2005, I have focused my energy on building the community and establishing policies with community consensus. I enjoyed building free knowledge communities and had the pleasure of most Indian language community members. I played a crucial role in organizing the first-ever Tamil Wikipedia Conference in its 10th year and the second WikiConference India after a gap of five years in 2016. Having worked with most of the Wikimedia communities and organizations in India and the neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, and Srilanka, I have a fair understanding of the aspirations and needs of the communities of the Global South. Outside the Wikimedia movement, I am a founding member and advisor for the Kaniyam Foundation, which works towards building tools and repositories for fostering free knowledge growth in the Tamil language online. I have also served as the General Council Member of the International Forum for Information Technology in Tamil, a non-profit organization advocating for establishing Tamil computing standards. I have also participated in many other open-source movements like Creative Commons, WordPress, and Ubuntu. If elected as a board member, I would strive to make sure the Global South community voice is heard, and due resources are allocated to fix the free knowledge gap in the region.

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[174] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_elections/2021/Candidates/Ravishankar_Ayyakkannu

[175] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_elections/2021/Results

[176] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_Foundation_elections/2021/Candidates/Ravishankar_Ayyakkannu

He used to be the Regional Manager for Strategic Partnerships in Asia and Eastern Europe of the Wikimedia Foundation. In 2017, he had worked with Afghanistan entities to connect them to the Wikimedia Foundation as well in his official capacity[177].

The 'General Support Fund', of which the committee comprises mostly of Indians, funds upwards of $10,000. There is no upper limit to the funding[178].

How Wikimedia funds editors through grant making

In the Wikimedia Foundation's 2022 report, it shows how heavily Wikimedia Foundation invests in Editors.

From South Asia, the main contributor was India. The definition of an editor as mentioned in this segment is "People who edit Wikipedia projects, creating or improving content as a result of grantee activities".

Essentially, this would mean that Wikipedia is disbursing millions to individuals to edit content on Wikipedia and create content as well.

In the South Asia section, it says that the main contributor is India with 75% of the participants. Interestingly, in the 2022 annual report, it says that the editors being paid by Wikimedia Foundation came from CIS-India[179] and West Bengal Wikimedia User Group.

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[177] https://tolonews.com/science-technology/roshan-partners-wikimedia-foundation-empower-afghans
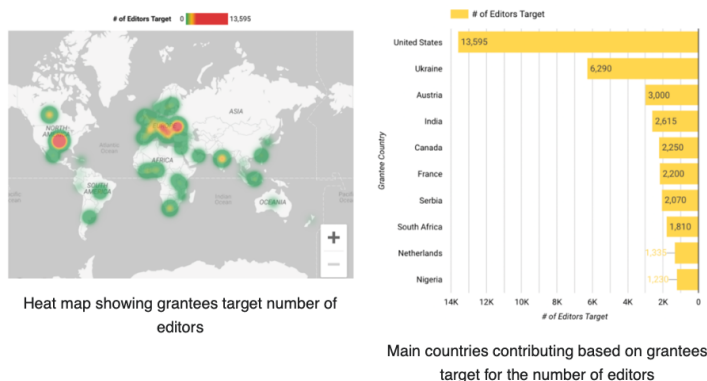[178] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Programs
[179]
https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Grants:Programs/Wikimedia_Community_Fund/Annual_plan_of_the_Centre
_for_Internet_and_Society_Access_to_Knowledge

Editors   [edit]

Definition: The application guidelines provide this definition of the editor: "people who edit Wikimedia projects, creating or improving content as a result of grantee activities".

However, a minority of grantees count only newly registered editors, whilst others consider existing and new editors, and most do not mention if they are new or existing. This may account for some of the larger variations. There is a need to further unify definitions and, based on this, disaggregate this data in reporting, providing there are the capacity and tools in place to do so (see challenges and opportunities section).

Grantee partners hope to involve **57,000** editors in grantee activities this year, between existing and new editors. This is about 55% of all participants. This number of editors per grant has a wide range, from 10 to 12,500 per grant.

Heat map showing grantees target number of editors

Main countries contributing based on grantees target for the number of editors

Regional analysis   [edit]

- **MEA** hopes to bring in **7,000** editors (accounting for 60% of the target of participants). The largest contributor is South Africa, followed by Nigeria and Ghana. They account for 57% of all editor goals in the region.
- **ESEAP** hopes to involve **3,000** (50% of participants) with Indonesia contributing 40% of the target in the region. Australia and New Zealand show low numbers of editors targets due to the nature of their grants being more focused on awareness and community building.
- **LAC** target is **3,000** (21% of the target for participants), Argentina, Brazil, and Wikimedia México contribute 88% of editor targets in the region. Uruguay and Colombia have lower editor numbers, largely due to smaller funds but also the characteristics of their projects: focusing on organisational capacity and discovering new approaches to work with underrepresented groups.
- **NWE** target is **12,000** (38% of participants) with Austria and France contributing 42%. Italy and Norway are two countries with lower editor contributions.
- **CEE** target is 13,000 (81% of participants) with Serbia being the largest contributor (15%).
- **USCA** target is 16,000(84% of participants) ; the main contributor is the Wiki Education Foundation, contributing 78% of the editors in this region and 21% globally.
- **SA** is **3,000** (75% of participants) the main contributor in India. From both The Centre for Internet and Society and West Bengal Wikimedia User Group. It is interesting to note that CIS only counts editors with more than 5 edits.

The number of paid editors target by grantees is staggering, with India coming in 4ᵗʰ in 2022[180].

(section continues below)

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[180]

https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Resources/Reports/Grantee_partners'_intended_programming_and_impact_2022/Contributors
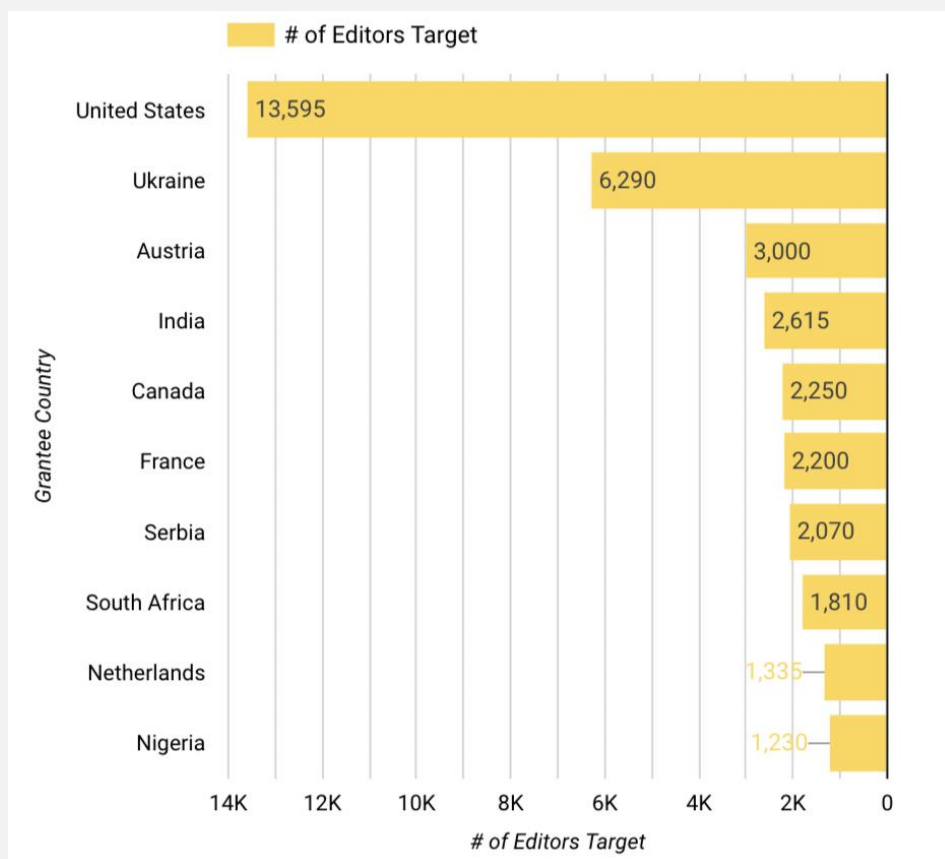
The total funding in 2022-2023 as general grants was upwards of $16 million. Wikimedia Foundation report says this:

> Grants administered by Community Resources in the 2022-2023 fiscal year fall under the following programs:
>
> Community Funds for Wikimedia communities: General Support Fund for flexible operational support (usually between $10,000 and $300,000 USD);
>
> Rapid Fund for organizing projects (between $500 and $5,000 USD); and Conference Fund for local or regional convenings
>
> Alliances Fund for mission-aligned organizations
>
> Research Fund for Wikimedia-related research
> Movement Strategy Implementation Grants to move the Movement Strategy recommendations forward
>
> In 2022-2023, 78% of funds went to 96 General Support grants, while a majority of grants funded were smaller Rapid grants (57%), comprising 216 grants and 4% of funds overall.

Of the 96 General Support grants, 22 (23%) were multi-year grants (14 in their second year of funding, 8 in their first). Another 26 (27%) were receiving General Support funds for the first time, up from 21% of General Support grantees in 2021-2022.

WMF Region	22-23 USD	% of Total USD ▾	# of Grants	% of Total Grants
Northern & Western Europe	$4,002,718.71	25.0%	26	6.82%
Latin America & Caribbean	$2,860,291.67	17.8%	40	10.5%
North America	$2,480,222.21	15.5%	25	6.56%
Sub-Saharan Africa	$2,343,947.02	14.6%	163	42.78%
East, Southeast Asia, & Pacific	$1,725,713.60	10.8%	45	11.81%
Central & Eastern Europe & Central Asia	$1,526,724.54	9.5%	34	8.92%
South Asia	$726,283.30	4.5%	33	8.66%
Middle East & North Africa	$366,937.02	2.3%	15	3.94%
Grand total	**$16,032,838.07**	**100.0%**	**381**	**100%**

Regional breakdown of funding administered by CR, 2022-2023

With South Asia proven to be mostly comprising of projects and editors from India, it can safely be concluded that a majority of the $726,283 went to Indian collaborations and editors.

In fact, this amount is just the tip of the iceberg. Wikimedia Foundation says that this figure does not include other grants that were given by the foundation.

It says, *"Some grants made by the Wikimedia Foundation are not managed by the Community Resources team and are not included in the analyses above. In 2022-2023, those 257 grants were made via the following program[181]s:*

Knowledge Equity Fund
Wikimania Scholarships
Thematic Community Programs Partnerships
Organizer Lab
Eduwiki for Reading Wikipedia in the Classroom"

The Knowledge Equity Fund was floated in collaboration with Tides Foundation (mentioned in the revelant section). Wikimania[182] is heavily supported by Google as well (read relevant

[181] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Community_Resources/Reports/Funding_Report_2022-2023
[182] https://wikimediafoundation.org/participate/events/wikimania/

section). In the 2024 Wikimania Conference in Poland, for example, Indian Wikipedia contributors were also honoured[183].

It is, therefore, safe to conclude that Wikimedia Foundation is funnelling millions into India through their collaborations not just to pay editors but also for various other advocacy and education related work.

Wikimedia Foundation Financials – How much money comes into "South Asia"?

We have established in the previous section that when Wikimedia Foundation talks about funding activity in "South Asia", a majority of that fund flows into India. The previous section is only indicative of the activities that Wikimedia Foundation funds in India – including paying editors.

A look at the Wikimedia Foundation financials reveals the millions of dollars being spent in "South Asia" every year. With the analysis in the previous section, it is safe to assume that majority of it is being spent in India.

In 2022, according to the Wikimedia Foundation form 990 with the IRS, it disbursed in South Asia:

1. Program services: $965,677
2. Further Mission: 724,158
3. Further Mission: 95,174
4. Scholarship to attend Wikimania Conference: 213,010

The total comes to $19,98,019.

Further, in the same year, it disbursed:

1. Art+Feminism: $381,685
2. Whose Knowledge: $196,434

Both these organisation work closely in India as explained in relevant sections.

Therefore, that is $25,76,138 – which is upward of Rs 21 lakhs, a large part of which is being funnelled to or used in India/India related activity.

In 2021:

1. Program services: $ 999,916
2. Program services: $ 26,556
3. Further Mission: $ 46,876
4. Scholarship to attend Wikimania Conference: $ 1,801

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[183] https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/wikimania-2024-honours-indian-wikipedia-volunteer-siddharth-vp-names-him-tech-contributor-of-the-year/article68500410.ece

In this year too, money was disbursed to Tides Advocacy, Whose Knowledge, Art+Feminism and other Wiki projects like Wiki Education which could be used in India.

What is also evident is that there was an exponential increase in the spending in "South Asia" from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023.

Example of how Wikimedia is paying to keep Wikipedia biased – Funding 'Newslinger'

As discussed in a previous section, the list of 'reliable sources/perennial sources' is essentially a list of sources that can or cannot be cited as reference material while writing and/or editing articles on Wikipedia. As demonstrated earlier, the editorially motivated list of deprecated sources actually facilitates keeping the content biased and inaccurate on the website.

As it turns out, Wikimedia Foundation paid a handsome amount to 'Newslinger' – an administrator who has actively stonewalled editors and contributors to ensure the Left bias of Wikipedia on many India-centric articles and has actively campaigned to deprecate non-Left sources – to institutionalise the list of 'reliable sources'.

After the WikiConference North America 2019 – a WikiCredCon – a WikiCred program was started by the Wikimedia Foundation that gives 'grants' to its editors and administrators to "keep" Wikipedia reliable.

The grants that are handed out under the WikiCred program range anywhere between $250 to $10,000.

WikiCred if funded by Wikimedia Foundation, Facebook, Microsoft and Craig Newmark.

The latest WikiCred (2022-2023) was funded by Wikimedia Foundation and Craig Newmark Philanthropies according to their website[184].

In 2020, some proposals which successfully answered the question, "What role can the Wikimedia community play in strengthening credibility and reliability in the information ecosystem?" were given grants by the Wikimedia Foundation. The criterion was simple – it should benefit Wikipedia.

One of the proposals that was accepted in 2020 and became a grant recipient was 'Newslinger'[185].

The proposal summary of Newslinger is as follows[186]:

"Sourceror leverages Wikipedia's credibility data to improve media literacy and combat disinformation on the web. The platform provides a browser extension that informs Internet users of the quality of the content they consume, and an API that enables developers to incorporate the Wikipedia community's reliability evaluations into new technologies."

The title of the proposal by Newslinger was "Sourceror: The Wikipedia community's platform against disinformation".

By his own admission, which was then ratified by the Wikimedia Foundation by giving him a grant, he has dedicated his energy to maintaining the list of sources on Wikipedia.

Newslinger says in his proposal, *"Over the past 20 months, I have dedicated substantial effort to maintaining the perennial sources list, an index of commonly discussed sources on the English Wikipedia classified by reliability and accompanied with summaries of related noticeboard discussions. Thousands of editors refer to the list every month to determine whether a source is credible enough to support claims in Wikipedia articles. The list (initially created by MrX) contains contributions from 123 editors and incorporates source evaluations from over a thousand editors submitted in the past 13 years. It was viewed more than 36,000 times in the last 30 days".*

He says, Sourceror is a technology platform that uses the data in the perennial sources list to help editors combat misinformation and disinformation in Wikipedia articles. Sourceror also aims to increase media literacy among Internet users in general.

Essentially, Newslinger was granted thousands of dollars to ensure that the list of perennial sources is turned into a template not just across Wikipedia but throughout the internet.

The proposal aims to convert the perennial sources list into a machine readable format towards the following aims:

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[184] https://www.wikicred.org/#-2

[185] https://misinfocon.com/introducing-the-first-round-of-wikicred-grantees-4c23448902d2

[186] https://wikiconference.org/wiki/2019/Grants/Sourceror:_The_Wikipedia_community%27s_platform_against_disinformation

1. At a recurring interval, the Sourceror Bot scrapes the perennial sources list, parses all of the information within, and records the changes into a database.
2. The Bot may eventually be extended to track additional data about the sources (e.g. number of Wikipedia pages that link to the citation).
3. The Sourceror API accepts data queries from client applications and provides responses in the machine-readable JSON format.

The second project, dependent on the first, was an app that would make information about the perennial sources readily searchable and readable.

The proposal says:

Project 2 uses the Sourceror API to form a responsive single-page application that displays the data from the perennial sources list in a format that is more accessible for mobile (and also desktop/laptop) devices. This project implements the following objectives:

1. The Sourceror Web App displays all of the information in the perennial sources list in an accessible interface that eliminates horizontal scrolling for devices with smaller screens.
2. Users can search for the source they are looking for without having to scroll through the list. Users can also filter the list by specific attributes (e.g. reliability classification).
3. The App loads and displays related information (e.g. country, language, and Alexa rank) about the sources from Wikidata alongside the corresponding entries when the user is online.
4. The App includes an entry editor that allows users to create new entries and revise existing entries in the perennial sources list without needing to understand template syntax or work with a large wikitext document.
5. The App is a progressive web application that works offline. After the user opens the App in their mobile web browser, they have the option to install the App to their mobile device's home screen. Once downloaded, the App displays cached information when the user is offline and retrieves updates when the user is online.
6. The home screen feature works for both Android and iOS. Desktop/laptop computers can also make use of the offline functionality.
7. The App is available for Android devices in the Google Play Store (which allows listings for progressive web apps).

This proposal clearly attempts to templatise the editorial opinions of paid editors and administrators (and others who follow their lead) beyond Wikipedia. The list of sources – reliable, deprecated and blacklisted would be available to users on a downloadable app where they would be able to search for the opinions of these editors on the source and then decide what views they should believe and which they should not.

The third project for which Newslinger was paid by Wikimedia makes it even more dangerous.

The proposal says:

On the English Wikipedia, there are currently over 180,000 articles that are tagged as lacking citations, and over 387,000 claims that are tagged as "citation needed". These issues are only resolved when editors add reliable sources or remove claims that are unsupported by reliable sources.

Project 3 introduces features to make it easier to identify and properly handle sources indexed in the perennial sources list. This project implements the following objectives:

1. The Sourceror Browser Extension displays an icon on the browser toolbar that corresponds to the reliability classification of the current page, if the website is indexed in the perennial sources list.
2. Users can click on the Extension's icon to display the information from the current website's entry in the perennial sources list.
3. For all links on the current page to a website indexed in the list, the Extension visually indicates (e.g. with an icon or colour highlight) the reliability classification of the website. This feature is optional, and can be disabled by the user.
4. The Extension contains a citation generator that produces a properly formatted Cite web template for the current website, if it is on the perennial sources list.
5. This feature may eventually be expanded to cover websites that are not on the list, pending data contributions from the community.
6. The Extension is a WebExtension that works on Mozilla Firefox (including Firefox for Android), Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, and Chromium-based browsers.
7. The Sourceror User Script allows users to rapidly remove citations of unreliable sources in a couple of clicks. For each selected citation, users can choose to replace the citation with a more reliable source, replace the citation with a "citation needed" tag, or delete the information supported by the citation.
8. The Sourceror Browser Extension and Sourceror User Script are designed to complement existing initiatives, including Cite Unseen, unreliable.js, and Citation Hunt.

Additionally, the Extension is intended to bring the Wikipedia community's source evaluations to a broader audience. The success of source-rating projects including NewsGuard, Ad Fontes Media, and Media Bias/Fact Check indicates that there is popular demand for resources that evaluate website credibility. Wikipedia is in an excellent position to provide this resource to the public, as editors already use it internally.

This would mean that when any page on the internet is opened, an icon would flash the opinions of administrators and editors like Newslinger as to whether that website is considered reliable of not according to the sources list of Wikipedia.

> The paid administrator of Wikipedia is here is trying to authentical and templatise his own opinions on sources, along with those of others like him, across the internet with the financial and editorial sanction of Wikimedia Foundation.

Given that Wikimedia Foundation vetted the project, the work done by Newslinger and other editors on the perennial sources list and sanctioned a grant for this project, implies the explicit agreement of the Wikimedia Foundation with the editorial decisions taken by Newslinger and therefore, Wikimedia cannot claim that it has no control over the content on Wikipedia.

Does Wikimedia Foundation submit to Indian laws?

The short answer – No. Wikimedia Foundation does not submit to Indian laws in any aspect – whether it pertains to court summons, financial disclosures, FCRA rules etc.

In 2023, Delhi Court had issued summons to Wikipedia, BBC and Internet Archive over the banned Modi documentary by BBC. Wikipedia and BBC went to court, arguing that they are appearing in protest because the Delhi Court has no jurisdiction over Wikipedia – given that it is a foreign entity. Internet Archive had, however, removed the archived version of the documentary on the court's order[187].

Wikimedia Foundation's reply to IT Guidelines – How they lied

In 2018, the government of India had released Intermediary Guidelines (Amendment) Rules, 2018, inviting comments from all stakeholders.

In January 2019, Wikimedia Foundation along with Mozilla and GitHub responded to the IT Guidelines expressing grave concern[188].

The statement read, "We write to you with deep concern about your Ministry's latest proposals on intermediary liability. We support the consideration of measures to make the internet a safer experience for everyone, including by holding internet platforms to higher standards of responsibility. However, the current proposal takes an unprecedented step towards the transformation of the internet from an open platform for creation, collaboration, access to knowledge, and innovation to a tool of automated censorship and surveillance of its users".

The statement at the time had 4 issues with the Intermediary Guidelines.

Failure to remove illegal content

Wikimedia Foundation was extremely concerned about the provision that would hold intermediaries responsible if they failed to remove illegal content from their platform.

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[187] https://organiser.org/2023/05/12/173647/bharat/pm-modi-documentary-bbc-and-wikipedia-argue-that-delhi-court-lacks-jurisdiction-internet-archive-removes-documentary/
[188] https://blog.mozilla.org/netpolicy/files/2019/01/Letter-to-Indian-MEITY-on-proposed-intermediary-liability-rules.pdf

They said in their statement, *"First, under the new rules, all online intermediaries are required to "proactively" purge their platforms of "unlawful" content or else potentially face liability for the actions and postings of their users. This would upend the careful balance set out in the existing law which places liability on the bad actors who engage in illegal activities, and only holds companies accountable when they know of such acts. These liability protections have been fundamental to the growth of the internet as an open and secure medium of communication, commerce, and innovation. They have allowed anyone to host platforms for speech, innovation, and discourse without fear that they would be crushed by a failure to police every action of their users. Imposing the obligations proposed in these new rules would place a tremendous and in many cases fatal burden on many online intermediaries, especially new organizations and companies. A new community's or a startup's first move should not be to build expensive filtering infrastructure and hire an army of lawyers. Meanwhile, those large platforms that are able to comply, will be incentivised to over-censor and take down lawful content in order to avoid the threat of liability and litigation. There is no system of proactive management that can remove unlawful content without making mistakes. This kind of filtering hampers the diversity of online discourse and chills free expression, eventually hurting the users who rely on these platforms most of all".*

The is the classic trope that is used by Wikimedia Foundation – they wish to impose upon governments across the world that they are a free and fair platform which is merely acting as an intermediary with no idea and/or control over the content that is being published on Wikipedia. It claimed that this provision would hamper free speech and that hurt those who rely on Wikipedia, because it would end up with the company over-censoring content, including legal content.

This is patently false. As demonstrated, Wikimedia Foundation has carefully cultivated a specific editorial stand with its grants and patronage. For example, the page on 'Democratic Backsliding in India' as discussed earlier was the result of an explicitly funded project by the Wikimedia Foundation.

The article which branded India as a country of concern where democracy is dying is basically an article which was created with the explicit funding of Wikimedia Foundation which runs Wikipedia under the Wikipedia Education program.

Therefore, it is disingenuous of Wikimedia to claim that they are unaware of the kind of content which is actively promoted on their platform. Further, Wikimedia Foundation specifically pays several editors and organisations. While there are intermediaries who could argue that they cannot be held liable for the content which is freely being published by others, Wikipedia cannot make that claim since it not only promotes censorship of one kind of sources – which is explicitly taking an editorial line – but also pays several of the editors, administrators and contributors who write on Wikipedia. There are arguments to be made that any platform that toes an editorial line in the selective censorship of content should be considered liable for any illegal content on their website – thereby making them a publishers and not intermediaries. Wikimedia is a fit case for being considered a publisher and not an intermediary under the criterion that they are not only toeing a pre-decided editorial line but also paying their editors, writers, admins and contributors to create content on Wikipedia.

Cost of surveillance requirement

Wikimedia Foundation had said, "*Second, this proposal would significantly expand surveillance requirements on internet services. This is both through the requirement to monitor the postings of all users as well as the specific direction to handover information about "senders and receivers" of content to the government. We believe that strong protections of user privacy are necessary to foster a healthy discourse and access to knowledge on the internet. At a time where your own Ministry is seeking to enshrine the principle of "data minimization" in law, this proposal threatens to take several steps back on user privacy*".

It is pertinent to remember here that Wikimedia Foundation spends almost 35% of its millions in revenue paying editors, writers and administrators through grants. Further, it funds millions for advocacy as well. To claim that the cost of surveillance would be an added cost is outlandish. Secondly, no intermediary, least of all one that has clearly toes an editorial line, can shrug off responsibility when committing illegality in the name of privacy.

Wikipedia not an intermediary

The statement read, "*Third, the term "intermediaries" is defined in an extraordinarily broad way that is likely to cause unintended harm. These rules apply indiscriminately to all intermediaries, sweeping up online repositories of knowledge, browsers, operating systems, and countless other kinds of internet companies and organizations into its scope. Importantly, we do not believe this broad range of services are the intended targets of this regulation. While the Government may intend for enforcement to be selective, the legal risk applies to virtually all internet services*".

Wikimedia had a problem with the wide net being cast by the Intermediary rules to include several websites including "repositories of knowledge" – what Wikipedia essentially refers to itself.

Cant' open office in India

The Wikipedia statement said, "*Fourth, the proposed rules put a blunt requirement on any service with more than 5 million users in India to incorporate in the country. This is a major operational obligation being imposed on a substantial number of global businesses and websites, without justification for this standard, and without a time period for compliance. This raises fears of international companies, services, and nonprofits being forced to close themselves off to Indian users, while also deterring potential market expansion of new players into India. Less diversity of services means less choices for users, harming the vibrancy of the Indian digital ecosystem*".

While the Wikimedia Foundation statement in this case makes it sound like they are concerned about how major tech companies would be forced to close down in India and that it would end up limiting their choices, the truth is that Wikimedia Foundation does not want to open an office in India because it would then need to comply with Indian laws. The

Wikimedia current files no returns in India, does not adhere to FCRA rules, is not incorporated in India and yet, continues to pay entities in India and editors, who in turn take editorial stands about Indian affairs. Currently, they also simply mention payments in India in their IRS records as "South Asia" because IRS requires the disclosure only of specific companies/NGOs paid in the USA. If Wikimedia Foundation opens its offices in India, it would have to account for the payments they are making to Indian entities, Indian editors and admins and also, submit to Indian laws regarding the rampant illegal content on Wikipedia.

The Wikimedia Foundation further said, *"As an open source browser, a crowd-sourced encyclopaedia, and an open repository of code, we are all online intermediaries that are supported by and freely available to tens of millions of active Indian users and volunteers. We are committed to privacy, freedom of speech, access to knowledge, and open collaboration, but these rules would push us to surveil and censor content to the point of embedding automated infrastructure for surveillance and censorship of Indian users into our networks. As currently drafted, these rules would undermine Indian users' access to myriad sites and services, putting them at a considerable disadvantage compared to users, developers, and organizations in other countries".*

Wikimedia Foundation here declares itself as an intermediary, claiming to be an open repository and a crowd-sourced encyclopaedia. As has been demonstrated earlier, Wikipedia is certainly not a crowd-sourced Wikipedia. There is a distinct model of promotion and incentivisation which Wikipedia follows and the hierarchy is strict enough for Wikipedia to be controlled only by a few committed, incentivised editors and admins, who have a distinct editorial line. We will discuss in the next section why Wikipedia insists on being branded as an intermediary, whereas, according to the law, they should be considered a publisher.

After the January 2019 statement, Wikimedia released another statement in December 2019[189].

Expressing concern about the guidelines, Wikimedia Foundation said, "*The proposed changes may have serious impact on Wikipedia's open editing model, create a significant financial burden for nonprofit technology organizations and have the potential to limit free expression rights for internet users across the country*".

Wikimedia Foundation expresses "deep concern" about the financial burden that would accrue should they be required to follow the law. It is pertinent to remember that this point that Wikimedia Foundation makes millions of dollars every year and spends anywhere between 30% and 35% on paying its editors, admins and contributors by way of grants. The amount that they use for keeping Wikipedia online (server costs etc) is a nominal percentage of the millions they make through the Wikimedia Foundation and the Wikimedia Endowment Fund. For Wikimedia to express concern about the cost of following Indian law is a trope, to say the least.

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[189] https://wikimediafoundation.org/news/2019/12/26/indias-proposed-intermediary-liability-rules-could-limit-everyones-access-to-information-online/

The Wikimedia statement talks about how it would have a negative impact on Freedom of Expression of millions of people whereas, it is demonstrably true that only a handful of editors and administrators actually have freedom of expression as far as Wikipedia is concerned where even facts are selectively quoted.

In the statement, Wikimedia Foundation further says, *"The information that is included on Wikipedia is collected and curated by thousands of global volunteers who work together to make knowledge available for everyone. Wikipedia is structured by individual languages, not geographic markets. People work together in real-time to write articles about topics of interest on Wikipedia. Some people make larger changes to the articles and add substantial sections with new information, others focus on incremental improvements by correcting grammar. Together, they work to ensure information stays neutral and is based on reliable sources. They also remove content that does not meet the site's quality standards. This collaborative system of people would be severely disrupted by obligatory filtering systems that monitor for and automatically remove illegal content across the website. Short response times for removals that would essentially require the use of automatic systems would interfere with people's ability to collaborate in real time "on Wiki", the collaborative, open editing model that has been crucial to Wikipedia's growth".*

At the cost of being repetitive, it is imperative to understand that the trope oft repeated by Wikipedia to justify non-compliance with Indian laws is untrue. The Wikipedia content is not collected and collated by thousands of volunteers across the globe, as Wikimedia would have one believe. Further, when Wikimedia says that the content on the platform is unbiased and is based on 'reliable sources', the pool of 'reliable sources' itself is tainted to a point where Wikipedia's small group of editors and admins who decide the editorial line of Wikipedia don't consider police and court statements as accurate. Further, there is a concerted effort, funded by Wikimedia, where non-Left sources are overwhelmingly banned from being cited, making the content skewed, unreliable, biased and bordering on slander in several cases.

The only reason why Wikimedia repeats the trope of collaborative editing and reliable sources is because it is used as a schtick to skirt Indian laws by claiming that Wikimedia has no editorial control over the content of Wikipedia and that it is a purely people based encyclopaedia. As has been demonstrated, it is indeed a fact that Wikimedia specifically funds editors and administrators, incentivising their role in the editorial line they continue to take in Wikipedia articles.

The convoluted justification that Wikimedia then gives for not submitting to Indian laws is as follows: *Requirements to quickly and automatically remove content that may be illegal in one jurisdiction without meeting globally accepted human rights standards are also antithetical to Wikipedia's global perspective and reach. People around the world see the same content on Wikipedia—someone in New Delhi could collaborate on the same English Wikipedia article alongside an editor in Berlin. This process makes Wikipedia articles richer and more reflective of how the world understands a given topic. As such, it is impossible to restrict changes inside a Wikipedia article from being visible in one country and not another. Fulfilling mandatory content removal requirements from one country would leave problematic gaps in Wikipedia for the whole world, break apart highly context-specific*

encyclopaedic articles, and prevent people from accessing information that may be legal in their country. Wikipedia's broad reach and cross-cultural collaboration is integral to our goal of providing access to knowledge for everyone, and these requirements significantly hinder that goal.

Further, Wikimedia claims to be a frugal, small global NGO which cannot afford hiring more people for the purpose of complying with Indian laws – *"We are also concerned about the material burden that some requirements in the draft bill would place on the Wikimedia Foundation's nonprofit model that operates to serve people around the world. While it may be possible for larger companies to comply with local incorporation rules, it would be an unrealistic burden for a global nonprofit with limited resources to comply with local incorporation requirements. Rules which require the removal of content or cooperation with law enforcement within short time periods could also prove impracticable without significant additional investments in either new employees or technology. We fear that such burdens will consume vital resources that would otherwise be directed to providing access to knowledge and reliable, neutral information to Indian citizens".*

What it means

From the responses of Wikimedia Foundation, it is evident that the organisation seems to be attempting its best to hoodwink the Indian authorities. It pretends to be a frugal NGO merely attempting to keep "knowledge free" by hosting a website which allows thousands and lakhs of "volunteers" to provide accurate information to the world. That is, however, untrue. It disburses millions of dollars in grants not only to further Wikimedia's business interests but also, towards the ideological belief it espouses. Further, it is attempting to paint itself as an intermediary. As proven, it often pays its editors and administrators and has a distinct editorial line. Wikimedia cannot pretend to not know about the editorial line being taken by its editors and administrators because by paying Newslinger, for example, it has clearly evaluated his editorial line and ratified it by giving him money to formalise it. It appears that Wikimedia Foundation is making excuses of 'operational costs' to avoid opening an office in India, so that it can continue to skirt Indian law, collect money and disburse money without filing returns in India and continue to peddle anti-India content without Indian law holding it to account and scrutiny.

Why Wikipedia should be considered a publisher, not an intermediary

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 applies to Digital Media – this includes intermediaries and a 'publisher of news and current affairs content or a publisher of online curated content'.

Wikimedia Foundation insists that Wikipedia is an intermediary – that too – one that should not be required to open offices in India, is free, fair, neutral and depends on thousands of 'volunteers'. However, the fact that Wikipedia has a clear editorial line which is maintained by its editors and administrators, many of whom are paid by the Wikimedia Foundation, qualifies them to be considered publishers.

According to the IT Guidelines, 'news and current affairs content' includes newly received or noteworthy content, including analysis, especially about recent events primarily of socio-political, economic or cultural nature, made available over the internet or computer networks, and any digital media shall be news and current affairs content where the context, substance, purpose, import and meaning of such information is in the nature of news and current affairs content.

Further, the IT Guidelines says[190]:

'News aggregator' means an entity who, performing a significant role in determining the news and current affairs content being made available, makes available to users a computer resource that enable such users to access the news and current affairs content which is aggregated, curated and presented by such entity.

'On demand' means a system where a user, subscriber or viewer is enabled to access, at a time chosen by such user, any content in electronic form, which is transmitted over a computer resource and is selected by the user.

'Online curated content' means any curated catalogue of audio-visual content, other than news and current affairs content, which is owned by, licensed to or contracted to be transmitted by a publisher of online curated content, and made available on demand, including but not limited through subscription, over the internet or computer networks, and includes films, audio visual programmes, documentaries, television programmes, serials, podcasts and other such content.

Defining a 'publisher', the IT Guidelines say:

'Publisher' means a publisher of news and current affairs content or a publisher of online curated content;

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[190]

https://www.meity.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Information%20Technology%20%28Intermediary%20Guidelines%20and%20Digital%20Media%20Ethics%20Code%29%20Rules%2C%202021%20%28updated%2006.04.2023%29-.pdf

'Publisher of news and current affairs content' means an online paper, news portal, news aggregator, news agency and such other entity called by whatever name, which is functionally similar to publishers of news and current affairs content but shall not include newspapers, replica e-papers of the newspaper and any individual or user who is not transmitting content in the course of systematic business, professional or commercial activity;

'Publisher of online curated content' means a publisher who, performing a significant role in determining the online curated content being made available, makes available to users a computer resource that enables such users to access online curated content over the internet or computer networks, and such other entity called by whatever name, which is functionally similar to publishers of online curated content but does not include any individual or user who is not transmitting online curated content in the course of systematic business, professional or commercial activity.

As has been evidenced, Wikipedia checks all the boxes when it comes to functioning as a publisher. An intermediary which primarily or solely enables online interaction between two or more users and allows them to create, upload, share, disseminate, modify or access information using its services. Essentially, an intermediary makes no editorial decisions of which facts are suitable for publication per their editorial line, which sources should or should not be cited, which content should be published or not and which content is notable or not notable. Intermediaries merely enable users to air their own views using their platform and the intermediary itself is not meant to be the arbiter of that content – unless it breaks the law.

In the case of Wikipedia, however, the requirements of an intermediary are not met. While Wikipedia wants people to believe that it has no role or involvement in the nature of content that is published on its website, however, that is demonstrably untrue. There is a specific payment model that is in place at the Wikimedia Foundation to ensure that editors and administrators continue to be engaged in editing/writing activity and these editors in turn have the power to decide the editorial line that is taken in every article on Wikipedia. The editors and administrators censor information, sources and even contributors according to their decided editorial line. In such a scenario, Wikipedia's argument about being a small NGO merely facilitating thousands of people to make information freely available to the world is a trope that does not seem valid.

Colonising the internet, one WikiFunction at a time: Future plans of Wikimedia Foundation – Abstract Wikipedia

One of the future plans of the Wikimedia Foundation is a project that would essentially colonise the internet. "Abstract Wikipedia" is an ongoing project by the Wikimedia Foundation, funded by Google (with a $3 million grant)[191] and Rockefeller Foundation with a $1 million grant[192].

The official Wikimedia Foundation page on Abstract Wikipedia says[193]:

> When Wikipedia debuted on the internet in 2001, the first articles were in English, but everyone from founder Jimmy Wales to Wikipedia's first volunteer editors wanted the website to quickly evolve into a multilingual knowledge source. Wikipedia is now in 312 active languages, and while English Wikipedia has 6 million articles, and 17 other languages have 1 million articles or more, the majority of Wikipedias—more than 200—have fewer than 50,000 articles, despite representing languages spoken by more than 1.5 billion people. A new, two-part project called Abstract Wikipedia seeks to close this gap.
>
> Abstract Wikipedia will accelerate language equality across Wikipedia, evolving Wikipedias with small article bases into full-fledged knowledge sources that benefit hundreds of millions of people. The project utilizes a new technical architecture that will translate baseline content into text that can be used across Wikipedia's language editions. Wikimedia's Head of Special Projects Denny Vrandečić, an international expert in technologies that categorize and process data in advanced ways, is leading this new project.
>
> We expect the project's first new articles to be published in 2023, but the first key element of the project, Wikifunctions, has already launched in a beta phase. Through Wikifunctions, volunteer editors will contribute technological functions to translate language-independent articles from Abstract Wikipedia into articles for different language Wikipedias—from Urdu to Igbo, and Swahili to Burmese.
>
> The Wikimedia Foundation's vision is a world where "every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge." Abstract Wikipedia will help us achieve this ambitious goal.

Essentially, this project would turn information into coded Wiki Functions which could then be replicated across Wikipedia in various languages.

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[191] https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Abstract_Wikipedia/Updates/2023-07-17
[192] https://diff.wikimedia.org/2023/07/12/abstract-wikipedia-gains-new-support-from-the-rockefeller-foundation/
[193] https://wikimediafoundation.org/story/abstract-wikipedia/

Explaining this, Slate published an article that read[194]:

> *"Functions are a type of knowledge, and therefore it's our job to allow everyone to share in this knowledge," Denny Vrandečić said while introducing Wikifunctions during Wikimania, the user conference for Wikipedia and the other free knowledge projects hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, which this year had more than 4,000 registered virtual attendees. Wikifunctions is the first new Wikimedia project to be launched since 2012, and although the site itself is not expected to be available until 2022, development has already kicked into high gear.*
>
> *At heart, Wikifunctions is rather technical: It will let the community create functions—that is, sequences of computer programming instructions. These functions will use data as inputs, apply an algorithm, and calculate an output, which can be rendered into one of the natural human languages to answer questions. That could have enormous implications for what you actually read on Wikipedia. A simple function might involve calculating how many days have passed between someone's date of birth and date of death. The output would be the person's lifespan, a fact that could appear in the content of that person's Wikipedia biography.*
>
> *Returning to the Dianne Feinstein example: When Vrandečić reviewed how San Francisco was described in each language back in 2019, he noticed that 62 Wikipedia language editions listed an out-of-date mayor. The most egregiously out-of-date instance was the Cebuano Wikipedia, which listed Feinstein as the current mayor of San Francisco. The problem was that the Cebuano language Wikipedia was very out-of-date, which is where Wikidata could have helped. Wikidata allocates items a unique QID; the concept "mayor of San Francisco," for instance, is Q795295. Different language editions of Wikipedia can then insert Wikidata queries within their articles. That way, if the mayor of San Francisco is updated after an election, one change to the central Wikidata item can update all of the language editions of Wikipedia automatically.*
>
> *In its future state, Wikifunctions is expected to be closely related to another project that has yet to launch, Abstract Wikipedia, an idea that Vrandečić first proposed in a Google working paper entitled "Architecture for a multilingual encyclopaedia." Before joining the foundation, Vrandečić worked as an ontologist at Google, and he explained to me in an interview that the name "Abstract Wikipedia" is trying to communicate that it's a Wikipedia not written in a natural language, but in content abstracting from a concrete natural language. So, for example, the future Abstract Wikipedia page for Marie Curie might consist of several curated Wikifunctions, and these Wikifunctions would be used to express biographical information about Marie Curie, such as the fact that she was both a physicist and a chemist. The machine-readable abstract*

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[194] https://slate.com/technology/2021/09/wikipedia-human-language-wikifunctions.html

version of the Wikipedia page can then, theoretically, be piped out to the 323 language versions.

Abstract Wikipedia could help Wikipedias that currently have fewer articles. For instance, there are fewer than 12,000 Wikipedia articles in Hausa, a language spoken in West and Central Africa, compared with 6.3 million articles in English Wikipedia. Without automation, it would take a lot of human time and energy for Hausa Wikipedia to expand from its current thousands of articles to millions of articles—and of course, not everyone has the economic means to donate copious amounts of free labour to an internet encyclopaedia. But the programming-language articles on Abstract Wikipedia could perhaps provide a good starting place most of the time. Since these articles are written in the machine-readable format of Wikifunctions, they can more easily be translated by machine into the many natural, human language editions of Wikipedia".

Essentially, Abstract Wikipedia would not do narration, but only turn "facts" into Wikifunctions – which would be replicated in local languages.

So if the Left editors and administrators of English Wikipedia believe that PM Narendra Modi is a dictator, ignoring all evidence to the contrary, that epithet for PM Modi could potentially be turned into a "Wiki Function" which would then be replicated in Wikipedia of all languages from around the world. If the Left leaning Wikipedia editors and administrators of Wikipedia English believe that Jai Shree Ram is a 'war-cry', that 'information' could be turned into a WikiFunction which would then be replicated in all languages across the world.

It is a fact that a lot of information appears differently in vernacular Wikipedia and English Wikipedia. Apart from established facts like the mayor of a city, there are several other identifiers that also appear differently. Further, there is a lot of information that might not even appear on several languages across the world.

With Abstract Wikipedia, in collaboration with Google, Wikimedia Foundation would colonise the internet where all the biased, motivated, factually inaccurate information driven by the Left editors and administrators would be replicated across the world – rewriting history as we know it. Thereafter, every AI function across the world would use the information that is replicated across all platforms, considering it authoritative information on the subject and any other fact, fact-check, counter or established sequence of events would be deemed inauthentic and unreliable – including police statements and court documents. If Wikipedia English determined in the Godhra case that the court verdict does not hold relevance – and that would be a fact replicated across the internet in all languages with no scope for rectification or argument. Wikipedia English decided that there is no democracy in India – that would be a fact replicated across the internet in all languages with no scope for rectification or argument. Wikipedia English determined that only a few sources are reliable, others are not - that would be a fact replicated across the internet in all languages with no scope for rectification or argument. Wikipedia English decided that Delhi Riots were spearheaded by the Hindus - that would be a fact replicated across the internet in all languages with no scope for rectification or argument.

Wikipedia is rewriting our reality and our history as we speak – with impunity – without submitting to Indian laws. It is doing so with millions and billions of dollars while pretending to be a small NGO that does not have the funds to submit to Indian laws. Governments across the world, including India, needs to take steps to rectify the real-time colonisation of the internet before it is too late.

What it means

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Recommendations

While the dossier is aimed at documenting information and creating awareness, the researcher would also like to initiate discussions for future steps.

To initiate the discussion, following are the recommendations based on the research into Wikimedia Foundation and Wikipedia:

Declare Wikipedia as a publisher

Wikipedia has claimed to be an intermediary which depends on the wisdom of the crowd without content intervention and editorial line, based on 'reliable sources' and maintaining and neutral point of view. This, however, is far from the truth, as evidenced in the research. Wikipedia meets all the standards of a publishers. They collate information on current events and historical events, they pay their editors and administrators and they are easily accessible by the people at large on the internet.

Given that Wikipedia has an editorial stand based on the editors and administrators, the evidence suggests that they are no longer eligible to be considered an intermediary. Once declared a publisher, Wikimedia would have to have their offices in India, set up a grievance redressal system and submit to Indian laws about illegal content which undermines the sovereignty of India or creates disaffection.

Scrutinise financial transactions

Wikimedia Foundation conducts several financial transactions in India to further its business interests and fund Left organisations and individuals who end up undermining the sovereignty of India and creating disaffection.

Any financial transactions in India, payments in India and fund collection from India is bound by Indian laws including IT laws, FCRA, laws governing NGOs and the IT Guidelines among others. The government should impress upon Wikimedia Foundation that they, legally, need to establish official presence in India and submit to financial scrutiny as per Indian laws.

Establish browser extension that marks bias on Wikipedia articles

As is discussed in the research, Wikimedia Foundation has paid thousands of dollars to Wikipedia administrator 'Newslinger' to create an app and a browser extension which would templatise the Wikipedia bias in the perennial sources – which essentially means that when anyone reads a website on the internet, it would be the bias opinions of Wikipedia editors that would pop up deciding which source is reliable and which isn't. With Wikimedia Foundation and Google being hands in glove, there is no doubt that this project could be implemented. The government of India should work on a browser extension that can potentially flag bias, misinformation, disinformation and fake news on Wikipedia articles, at the very least, pertaining to India.

Evaluate Wikipedia under the Competition Act 2002

The Competition Act, 2002, is the primary legislation in India addressing antitrust issues. It was enacted to promote and sustain competition in markets, prevent anti-competitive practices, and protect the interests of consumers. Google in collaboration with Wikimedia Foundation is skewing the scale in favour of Wikipedia content and information, undermining Indian media and content sources. The deprecating of sources and Google and Wikimedia Foundation ratifying the bias information results in serious loss of revenue and ranking for Indian websites which they do not editorially agree with. Google and Wikimedia Foundation should be investigated for anti-competition practices.

Contact for Inquiries

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